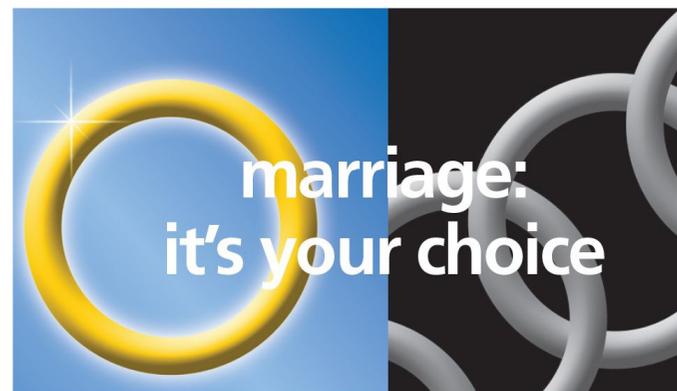




KARMA NIRVANA

Supporting all victims of honour based abuse and forced marriage



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**ROADSHOWS IN PARTNERSHIP
Government Forced Marriage Unit
2014**

FORCED MARRIAGE CRIMINAL LAW

Karma Nirvana Timeline



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1993

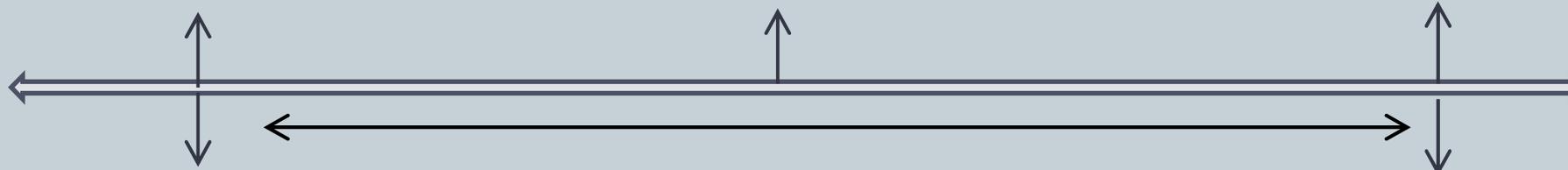
Founded on survivor experiences, survivor engagement remains at heart of all KN work

2008-2012

Received 30,000 calls
Developed national Honour Network Helpline
Support all experiencing HBV

2014

Effectively championed change in law, practice & policy



Marking 21 years

National project based in West Yorkshire
Increase reporting, reduce isolation, save lives

Karma Nirvana Services

Unique Helpline, risk assessments, campaigners, survivor support, training, events, expert witness, face-to-face

The presentation will provide:



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- An insight into new forced marriage criminal law
- Timeline of a Potential FM/HBV Victim
- Gain an understanding of honour systems and honour codes within family dynamics
- Define FM/HBV as child & public protection
- Best practice do's/don'ts/risk assessment
- Indicators of abuse & identify potential perpetrators
- Options for victims & professional guidance/support

Forced, Arranged or Grey?

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Arranged Marriage

- A marriage in which families take a leading role, but the parties have the free will and choice to accept or decline the arrangement.

Forced Marriage

- A marriage where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used.

GREY AREA

A marriage may begin here
(arranged) but end up



Here (Forced)

Honour Based Violence



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Honour based violence is defined as:

“An incident or crime which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and or community”

ACPO

Can be distinguished from other forms of abuse, as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members

Victims will have multiply perpetrators not only in UK but can be abroad, HBV can be trigger for a FM.

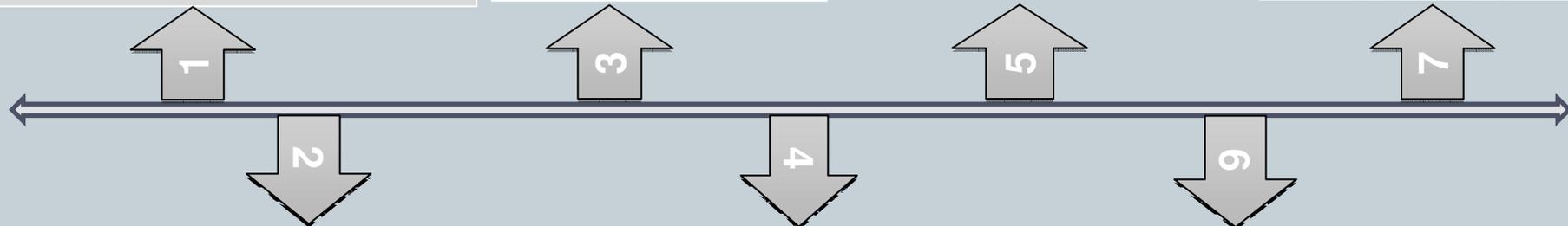
Timeline of a potential FM Victim

British born 1986 to parents from Pakistan father arrived aged 10, one of 5 siblings lived in small Cheshire town, father well known taxi driver, Secretary of Taxi Drivers Association

Family rows over western ways, clothes, male/white friends, pattern running away first time aged 11

Wrote poetry titled 'happy families' wishing family would be proud, states feeling trapped 'all they think about is honour'

Emergency accommodation request made to SS states 'parents will send me to Pakistan marry me & leave

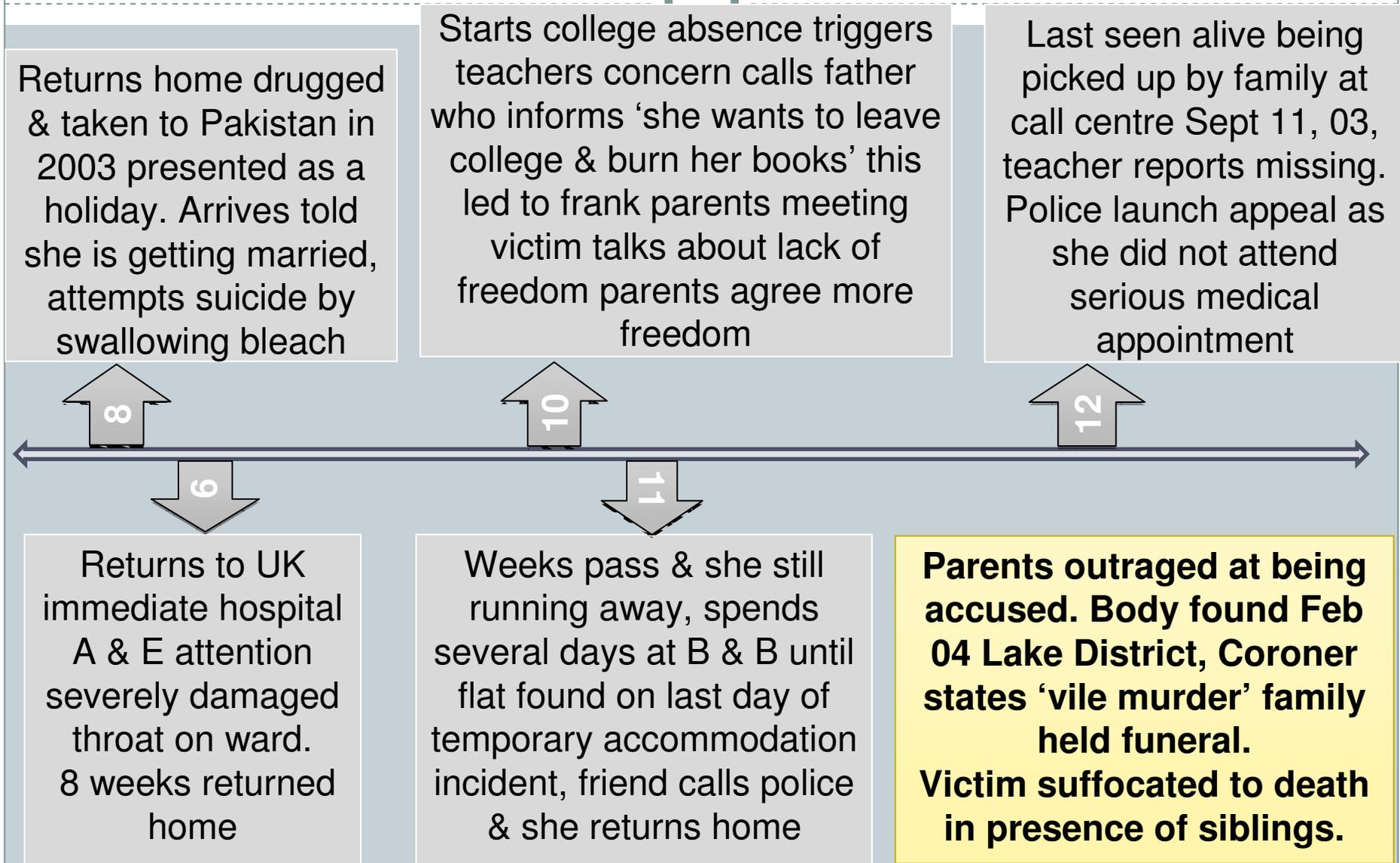


Ambition to be a barrister, 10 good GCSE grades loved school & Beyoncé. Best friends describe how she lights up a room, caring, high spirited, determined & ambitious

2003 made housing application with Senior Housing Officer states how one parent would hold her down while other hit her, visible injuries

Escape attempts found in park & once climbed out of window & friend helped offering a space, she discloses her fears about 'being squeezed between two cultures'

Timeline of a potential FM Victim



RIP Shafilea Ahmed



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DOB: 14th July 14 1986

'Happy Families'

I don't pretend like we're the
perfect family no more
Desire to live is burning
My stomach is burning
But all they think about is
honour

I was like a normal teenage kid
Didn't ask 2 much
I jus wanted to fit in
But my culture was different
But my family ignored



Died Aged 17

GUILTY

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Iftikar Ahmed, 52

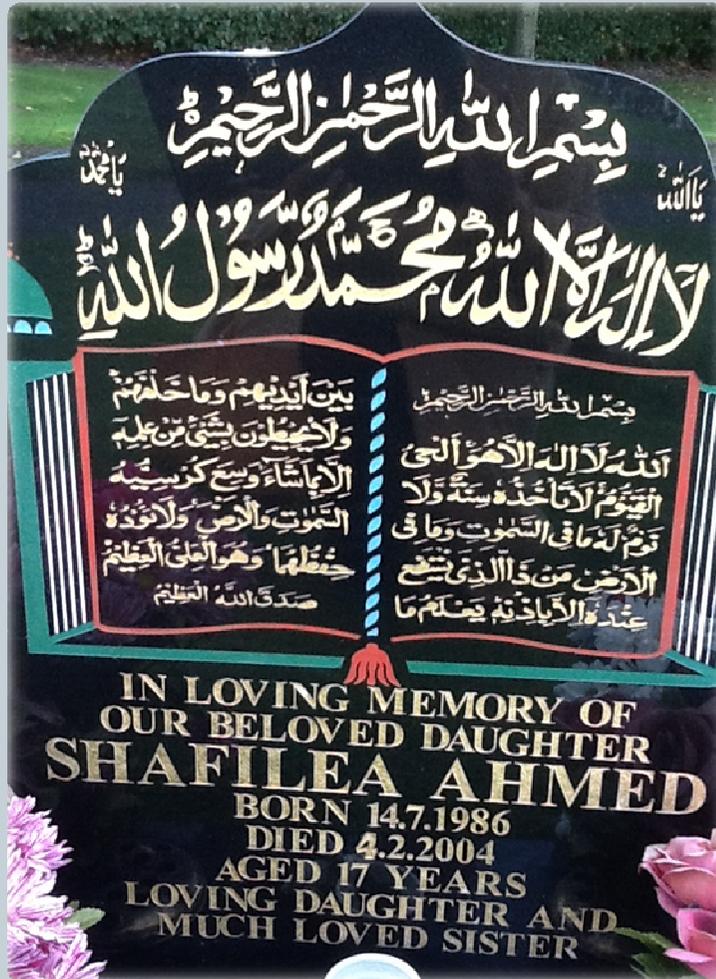


Farzana Ahmed, 49

Sentence 25 years - No Parole

WE MUST REMEMBER & PREVENT

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Family buried Shafilea knowing they had killed her

Sentencing remarks 2012

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“your concern about being shamed in your community was greater than the love of your child”

“Shafilea was a determined, able and ambitious girl who wanted to live a life which was normal in the country and in the town in which you had chosen to live and bring up your children”

“However, you could not tolerate the life Shafilea wanted to live”

- Justice Roderick Evans

Sentencing remarks...

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- *“You wanted your family to live in Pakistan in Warrington”*
- *“Although she went to local schools, you objected to her socialising with girls from what has been referred to as ‘the white community’ you objected to her wearing western clothes and you objected to her having contact with boys’*
- *“She was being squeezed between two cultures, the culture and way of life that she saw around her and wanted to embrace and the culture and way of life you wanted to impose upon her”*

Prosecutor Andrew Edis QC

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Only 3 choices within family dynamic:

“Escape, submit or die”

“Alesha has escaped, Mevish has submitted and Shafiela has died”

“The killing was motivated by cultural issues”

- Justice Roderick Evans

Key Facts



- Average of at least 12 honour killings in UK each year (Cowan 2004)
- Two thirds (69%) of young Asians agree that families should live according to the concept of 'honour', or 'izzat' (ComRes, BBC Panorama 2012)

Calls to Honour Network Helpline:

2008 = 2532 calls
2009 = 5599 calls
2010 = 4815 calls
2011 = 5517 calls
2012 = 6779 calls
2013 = 6519 calls
2014 = 3707 calls

#honourstats in 2013...

- Received **6519** calls from victims, averaging **550** calls per month;
- **351 cases** involves victims aged **17 and under**;
- **182 cases** from **men** & **82 cases** from **couples**
- **279 calls** involved victims with a **learning difficulty or disability**;
- **436 victim** calls from **Outer London**;
- **338 victim** calls from **Inner London**;
- **40%** of callers are **unknown**

Indicators of FM/HBV

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Restricted freedom that involves being monitored by siblings, cousins, family, others - ask VICTIM

Hiding mobile phone/unreasonable restrictions

Running away from home, truanting

Absence and persistent absence

Request for extended leave & failure to return from visits to country of origin

No aspirations post 16, family history

Threats to kill, emotional blackmail, presenting perceived risk including holidays abroad

Victims know their families

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Ask 'what does honour mean to you and your family? Use word **'izzat'**

What does your family believe are shameful behaviors? Identifying do's & don'ts-risk?

What do you regard to be safe or unsafe to disclose to your family?

Who is the head/decision maker of the family?

Do you have a dual passport or ID card for another country?

If you go abroad what is your EDR? Who likely to go with you? Where will you stay? How can we contact you?

Perpetrators

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- ❖ Consider immediate and/or extended family members
- ❖ Do not overlook women and siblings
- ❖ Do not speak to victim in presence of perpetrators
- ❖ What are their views about honour?
- ❖ Identify what they perceive to be shameful & honourable behaviors?
- ❖ Identify their family history in relation to marriage; first cousin? early marriage?
- ❖ Any suicides/divorce/unexpected deaths/runaways in family?
- ❖ May request professionals from same ethnicity
- ❖ Collusion, witness intimidation through other members

Best Practice



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- Develop minimum standards within your team
- Maintain victims confidence do not approach family without expressed permission consider risk
- Reassuring that they are not going against their religion and/or culture
- Create spaces for victim to access helpline's/websites
- Establishing a means of discreet contact
- Develop/implement a safety plan after a FMPO-some victims are returned to perpetrators
- Offer option to speak or meet a survivor

Best practice...

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- Do not use family members as interpreters
- Mediate with family or community members
- Engage in family group conferences, potential emotional manipulation of victim
- Disclose information of risk, including 'perceived' risk that is deemed shameful by victim
- Send the victim back to the family/perpetrators against their wishes
- Remind person that they are not alone many survive disownment, signpost..

What is the FMU?

Forced Marriage Unit established in 2005.

FMU is the UK Government's one-stop shop for:

- **Developing effective Government policy**
 - **Awareness raising**
 - **Casework**
 - **Domestic**
 - **Consular**
- **Reluctant Sponsors**



How can we help in the UK



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- Reassure and remain victim focused when a call is made to our national helpline – 9am-5pm Mon-Fri and GRC out of hours.
- Work with police, social workers, teachers, welfare officers, health professionals and many others in UK to protect people at risk.
- Provide support, information and contacts.
- Arrange safe accommodation in UK.

FMU helpline statistics



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- **2013: FMU gave advice or support to over 1300 cases related to possible/forced marriage.**
- 15% of calls involved victims below 16 yrs.
- 25% involved victims aged 16-17
- **48% involved victims aged 18-25**
- 7% involved victims aged 26-30
- **82% involved female victims and 18% involved male victims.**
- 97 instances involving those with disabilities
- 12 instances involved victims who identified as LGBT

Countries of origin

**Pakistan (42.7%), India (10.9%), Bangladesh (9.8%),
Afghanistan(2.8%)Somalia (2.5%)**

Iraq (1.5%), Nigeria (1.1%), Saudi Arabia (1.1%), Yemen (1%),
Iran (0.8%),
Tunisia (0.8%), The Gambia (0.7%), Egypt (0.6%) and
Morocco (0.4%).

The origin was unknown in 5.4% of cases.

*** Overall the FMU handled cases involving 74 different countries**

How we assist overseas

- Signposting to BHC/Embassies.
- Arrange safe accommodation overseas.
- Assistance with their **return to the UK** – providing local knowledge linked to exit visas.
- Awareness of local laws in order to provide advice on any travel limitations.
- Organise repatriation - and **rescues** in extreme cases.
- Accompanying victims to the airport – especially in the case of minors.
- Organise **emergency flights/** travel documents with safe pick-up and transport from airport.

Aftercare for repatriated victims

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- Aftercare project being delivered by NGO Southall Black Sisters.
- Provides emotional and practical support for victims that have been repatriated to the UK.
- Without support victims can experience pressure to return home.
- Aims to bridge the gap that victims experience in support and practical advice and enable them to develop a plan for the future.



0208 571 0800

0208 571 9595

LEGISLATION - timeline



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

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December 2011 – Consultation launched

June 2012 – Prime Minister announced forced marriage to be criminalised.

April 2013 – Parliamentary process commenced.

March 2014 – Royal Assent granted

June 2014 – New offences to take effect

HOW THE LAW CAN HELP

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FORCED MARRIAGES WILL BECOME A CRIMINAL OFFENCE in June 2014.

We will still have the use of **Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs)** to help.

FMPOS are civil orders with legally binding requirements to protect a person at risk.

Some examples of what they include are:

Protect victims from being taken overseas/or being them back

Stop them for being forced into marriage whether religious or otherwise

Stop them being hurt/harmed or threatened

Stop them being harassed.

FORCED MARRIAGE OFFENCE

1. A person commits an offence in England and Wales if he or she—
 - (a) uses violence, threats or any other form of coercion for the purpose of causing another person to enter into a marriage, and
 - (b) believes, or ought reasonably to believe, that the conduct may cause the other person to enter into the marriage without free and full consent.

2. In relation to a victim who lacks capacity to consent to marriage, the offence under subsection (1) is capable of being committed by any conduct carried out for the purpose of causing the victim to enter into a marriage (whether or not the conduct amounts to violence, threats or any other form coercion).

3. A person commits an offence under the law of England and Wales if he or she—
practises any form of deception with the intention of causing another person to leave the United Kingdom, and intends the other person to be subjected to conduct outside the UK that is an offence under subsection (1) or would be an offence under that subsection if the victim were in England or Wales.

KEY ELEMENTS OF NEW LAW

Forcing an individual to marry against their will.

Luring a person to a territory of a state for the purpose of forcing them to enter into marriage.

Using deception with the intention of causing another person to leave the UK for the purpose of forcing that person to enter into marriage.

Breach of a forced marriage protection order.

If a person lacks the capacity to consent, the offence is also capable of being committed by any conduct carried out for the purpose of causing the victim to marry, whether or not it amounts to violence, threats or any other form of coercion.

PENALTIES

FORCED MARRIAGE OFFENCE

- If convicted in a criminal court, maximum penalty on indictment will be imprisonment for a term not exceeding **seven years and/or a fine**
If convicted in a civil court, maximum penalty on summary conviction will be imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months and/or a fine

BREACH OF A FORCED MARRIAGE PROTECTION ORDER

- If the breach is in a criminal court, maximum penalty on indictment will be imprisonment for a term not exceeding **five years and/or a fine**
If the breach is in a civil court, maximum penalty on summary conviction will be imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months and/or a fine

FUTURE FOR VICTIMS

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Although **forcing someone into a marriage** and/or luring someone overseas for the purpose of marriage will become a **criminal** offence – the **civil route** and the use of FMPOs will still be available and can be used as an **alternative** to entering the criminal justice system.

It may be that perpetrators will automatically be prosecuted where it is overwhelmingly in the public interest to do so, however, **victims should be able to choose how they want to be assisted.**

Prosecution process

Special measures

Jurisdictions

Professionals

BENEFITS

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Further protection

Deterrent

Support for professionals

Clarity of message

Empower victims

Instilling Confidence



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“Cultural acceptance does not mean accepting the unacceptable”

(Sir Ian Blair)

Always frame issues of forced marriage & honour based violence as a child & public protection issue

REMEMBER...perpetrators will use need to be culturally sensitive against you, seek guidance if unsure

SIGN OUR PETITION!

change.org

Start a petition Browse

Search

anup manota



Petitioning Theresa May MP

Honour their memories, dishonour the crime by giving us a day of memory to remember all those victims of Honour Based Violence

✓ Signed

with 26 supporters



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KARMA NIRVANA

Supporting all victims of honour based abuse and forced marriage



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Website:

www.karmanirvana.org.uk

www.gov.uk/forced-marriage

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