

# West Midlands Police

## University of Birmingham School

### Forced Marriage & Honour Based Abuse

#### Schools Panel

28<sup>th</sup> June 2016



DS Trudy Gittins  
SME: Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse  
Public Protection Unit



# What is an Arranged Marriage?

# What is a Forced Marriage?



# Arranged, Forced or Grey?

## 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.

Individuals aged 16 or 17 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, can only marry if they obtain their parents consent.

## Forced Marriage

A marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some adults with learning disabilities, cannot ) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.

e.g. “My mum says she’ll kill herself if I don’t get married

## GREY AREA



A marriage may begin here (arranged) but end up

here (forced)



**FORCED MARRIAGES AND HONOUR-BASED  
VIOLENCE ARE NOT PART OF ANY OF THESE**



# Why do Forced Marriages happen: Typical Motives

- Parents belief that religion or culture is being preserved
- Pressure from peers or family members
- Protecting “family honour” or “izzat”
- Preventing unwanted relationships outside the ethnicity, culture, religion or caste
- Belief that it will strengthen family links
- Financial gain (land, property or wealth remains within a family )
- **Control unwanted behaviour or sexuality ( e.g. promiscuity, gay, lesbian behaviour, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, wearing make-up and westernised behaviour )**
- Assisting claims for country residence
- obtaining a long term carer for the person with a learning disability
- believing the marriage will somehow “cure” the disability



# Shafilea Ahmed



Murdered by her parents in home town of Warrington in 2003 – parents concealed body in Cumbria

Parents objected to her socialising, having “western” friends and having contact with boys

Shafilea describes in poetry how she felt locked between two cultures

Taken abroad to be married and attempted suicide to avoid marriage

Murdered in front of her siblings and parents made siblings keep the murder a secret

Her sister finally told the police 7 years later



# Shafilea Ahmed



## Sentencing Remark:

*"...you chose to bring up your family in Warrington but, although you lived in Warrington, your social & cultural attitudes were those of rural Pakistan & it was those that you imposed upon your children..."*

*"...she was squeezed between two cultures, the culture & way of life that she saw around her & wanted to embrace & the culture & way of life you wanted to impose upon her..."*

*"...The killing was motivated by cultural issue.....your concern about being shamed in your community was greater than the love of your child"*

# National Day of Remembrance for victims of Honour Killings

BRITAIN'S  
**lost**  
**women**

**COSMOPOLITAN**



**KARMA NIRVANA**  
Supporting all victims of honour based abuse and forced marriage





# What is honour based abuse?

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

Honour based abuse is where a person is punished by their family/community for allegedly undermining what they believe to be the correct code of behaviour.

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.

***Restoring honour or 'izzat' is viewed as being more important than anything else***



# Third generation?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bhaa7-pMfyY&t=1m54s>



# What's available to help you:

Foreign and Common Wealth  
Forced Marriage Multi Agency Practice Guidance



FGM Mandatory reporting guidance



[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/322307/HMG\\_MULTI\\_AGENCY\\_PRACTICE\\_GUIDELINES\\_v1\\_180614\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322307/HMG_MULTI_AGENCY_PRACTICE_GUIDELINES_v1_180614_FINAL.pdf)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/legislation-policy-and-guidance/>



# Freedom Charity 'app' for both potential victims and those concerned for others:

## Some of the features:

- GPS Tracking
- Advice for professionals – spotting the signs
- Advice and checklist for friends and friends of victims
- Links to nearest police station and hospitals
- Information also on sexual abuse and FGM
- Direct dial to Police, NSPCC, Freedom charity and the FMU helpline at the Foreign Office.
- Does not look like Forced Marriage App
- Free to download on iPhones and Blackberrys

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= RWfbmGq4e0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWfbmGq4e0)



# Twitter: wmpsentinel



## Any Questions?

