



**“Preventing Honour Related Violence by education and dialogue through Immigrant NGOs”**

REF: JUST/2013/DAP/AG/5823

**NAME OF METHODOLOGICAL TOOL**

**Case study on day-to-day honour related violence**

---

**NAME OF PARTNER ORGANISATION: The Angelou Centre**

**COUNTRY: The UK**

**LANGUAGE: EN**



This publication has been produced with the financial support of the DAPHNE Programme of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of “author/contractor/implementing Beneficiary” and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.

## INTRODUCTION

This case study highlights routine forms of honour related violence, both its nature and impact on minority women. It also examines ways of tackling the problem.

## DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

### **Main aim**

The aim is to provide a case study highlighting the routine experience of honour related violence, and best practice in addressing the problem.

### **Expected results**

The expected results are:

- 1) Increased understanding of the nature and impact of honour related violence.
- 2) Increased understanding of what is best practice in resolving the problem.

### **Implementation steps**

The case study can be provided to small groups of participants, who should discuss the following questions:

- 1) What are the issues relevant to the case?
- 2) How can these issues be resolved?

The participants should make note of their answers and report back the discussion to a wider group.

The wider group should discuss all their answers and the best practice points learnt from the exercise.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This case study has been prepared by the Angelou Centre based on its experiences in providing frontline services for minority women experiencing honour related violence and other forms of violence against minority women and girls in the UK. The case study is based on the experience of a number of minority women.

**The Case Study: 'Sukhwinder' (not a real name)**

Sukhwinder is a young eighteen year old Sikh girl of Indian origin, born and educated in the UK studying at a local college.

Sukhwinder's older brother discovered photographs of her Muslim boyfriend when he was checking her mobile telephone. Sukhwinder's parents were very angry as they did not approve of her having a boyfriend, especially as he was not of the same religion. They felt that she was bringing dishonour onto the family. They took away her mobile telephone, and Sukhwinder was not allowed to use her email or Facebook and other social media. Her father also threatened to take her out of college, and Sukhwinder was carefully monitored through the checking of her timetable and attendance.

A few weeks after this incident, the family had some visitors. Sukhwinder later found out from her brother's wife that they had come to see her with the intention of an arranged marriage. Sukhwinder spoke to her brother and told him that if she was forced to marry, she would run away. Her father stopped speaking to her for several weeks, accusing Sukhwinder of shaming the family.

Sukhwinder bought another mobile telephone secretly and re-established contact with her boyfriend. She had this hidden away until her brother found a top-up card and a charger in her hand bag. He checked the telephone and found messages and photos of her boyfriend. She was beaten up and locked in her room, and did not attend college for several days. However, Sukhwinder was finally allowed to return to college when her tutor rang to inquire about her absence. The tutor was informed that Sukhwinder had been ill.

Upon going back to college, Sukhwinder finally sought help from her tutor.

**The Exercise Questions**

1. What are the issues relevant to the case?
2. How can these issues be resolved- in this example, what would you do if you were the tutor?

## Some Answers

1. The relevant issues are:
  - Sukhwinder is subjected to violence and control over her sexuality and autonomy by her family, who feel dishonoured and shamed by her having a boyfriend, particularly someone of a different religion.
  - Sukhwant is facing a forced marriage.
  - Sukhwinder is threatened with removal from college, which would deny her an education.
  - All of these experiences are a routine form of honour related violence.
  
2. You/the tutor can do the following to resolve the problem:
  - Find out if there is a minority women's NGOs which can support Sukwinder. If not, you would need to contact state agencies or other relevant organisations directly for help.
  - Report the matter to the police as a crime and to obtain protection for Sukwinder, particularly in an emergency. (If children or vulnerable adults were also at risk, you would also need to contact social services, although the law and agencies may vary in different countries. In the UK, in forced marriage cases, you can also call the Government's Forced Marriage Unit).
  - Obtain civil protection court orders such as injunctions with the help of solicitors (what is available will vary in different countries. For example, in the UK, there are Forced Marriage Protection Orders).
  - Help Sukhwinder leave home by contacting a woman's shelter or send her to the state housing department (these services and rights to public housing may vary in different countries).
  - Obtain financial support for Sukwinder from the state or other sources (what welfare benefits she is entitled to will vary in different countries).
  - Help Sukwinder access counselling, health and social support from medical and other services.