

Adopting an Intersectional Approach to Tackling Gender-Based Violence

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Who we are & What we do?

We are a youth-led charity that focuses on tackling racial and gender inequality, and patriarchal interpretations of culture.

In 2015 we campaigned for changes to the Serious Crime Act regarding FGM. As a result it is now mandatory for teachers, medical and frontline professionals to report and record FGM incidents. FGM is now statutory education in secondary schools.

What we will talk about today

1. Understanding Honour culture, and abuse related to this.
2. Understanding FGM (female genital mutilation) within the context of honour culture.
3. Addressing the racial and religious misconceptions surrounding HBA (honour based abuse) and FGM.

HBA

What is Honour culture?

Honour culture is based around preserving the reputation and upstanding of a person, family or community. It is about protecting perceived family, community, cultural or religious beliefs.

What is honour based abuse?

HBA is any physical, psychological, sexual harm as a result of honour culture.

HBA vs GBV?

HBA is when gender-based violence is specifically related to upholding honour - eg when domestic abuse, sexual assault or other forms of GBV are happening as a result of honour beliefs.

FGM & HBA

What is FGM?

FGM is the cutting, injuring, or changing of female genitalia for non-medical reasons.

There are 4 types of FGM:

Type I - Clitoridectomy partial or total removal of clitoris

Type II - Excision Partial or total removal of the clitoris and the inner labia

Type III Infibulation narrowing of the vaginal opening by stitching/covering seal

Type IV - any other harmful procedure on genitalia. Labiaplasty, pricking, burning etc.

Why is FGM related to HBA

FGM is practiced for these reasons:

1. Custom and Tradition
1. Preservation of Virginitv
1. Family Honour
1. Hygiene
1. To regulate female sexuality

Cultural misconceptions of HBA and FGM

1. 'HBA and FGM are a muslim problem'
1. 'All Muslim women are oppressed.'
1. 'HBA only affects women'
1. 'It's only abuse when there is physical violence'
1. 'It's only acted out by family members or community leaders'

Going forward

1. Education and awareness
1. Take a non-judgemental approach
1. Deracializing idea of Honour
1. Address how men are impacted by honour culture