
Overview

This standard is for workers whose daily work may bring them into contact with potential victims and survivors of honour based violence. These duties may be carried out within an agency that is recognised as a formal referral point for honour based violence victims and survivors, or it may be within other agencies that have contact with potential victims and survivors of honour based violence. It covers what you must do, know and understand in relation to the initial identification of potential victims and survivors of honour based violence. You will look for signs and indicators of honour based violence, and work with potential victims and survivors to address any immediate needs they may have. Potential victims and survivors of honour based violence can be adults, children or young people. For the purposes of this standard, honour based violence includes forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. maintain your knowledge in relation to honour based violence
2. identify signs and indicators of honour based violence in line with current guidance
3. monitor those whom you come into contact with for signs and indicators of potential honour based violence in line with organisational procedures
4. communicate at a pace and level suited to potential victims and survivors using recommended communication techniques
5. respond to cultural differences and needs in line with current good practice
6. seek further information discreetly to make informed identifications if required
7. identify any obstacles to disclosure in line with recognised good practice
8. take account of risks that come from identification in line with the needs of potential victims and survivors
9. identify immediate risks and needs of potential victims and survivors in line with organisational risk management and safeguarding and protection procedures
10. address identified immediate risks in line with the needs of potential victims and survivors and any statutory requirements
11. maintain your personal safety and the safety of your colleagues at all times
12. make a decision on the need to refer or report potential victims and survivors of honour based violence taking account of all known circumstances
13. work within the limits of your role at all times
14. seek advice and support from appropriate others when required
15. record all findings in line with organisational procedures
16. share information with relevant agencies where there is a statutory or other requirement to do so and in line with organisational procedures
17. comply with the rights and requirements of confidentiality when working with potential victims and survivors

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

General knowledge

1. legislation, guidance and organisational procedures relevant to:
 - 1.1 honour based violence
 - 1.2 safeguarding and protection
 - 1.3 health and safety
2. key definitions used in relation to honour based violence
3. the impacts and consequences on potential victims and survivors of honour based violence
4. the indicators and signs of honour based violence
5. how to obtain up to date information relevant to honour based violence
6. your role, responsibilities and competence, and who to seek assistance and advice from when necessary
7. the associated risks for potential victims and survivors of honour based violence
8. the complexities of the needs of potential victims and survivors of honour based violence

Communication

9. how to communicate effectively with potential victims and survivors of honour based violence including through the use of interpreters when necessary
10. barriers to disclosure and self-identification of victims and survivors and how to overcome these
11. risks and barriers that may be encountered when using same sex interpreters and interpreters from victims' communities
12. the importance of confidentiality and discretion
13. why it is important to keep discussions free from judgement, discrimination and oppression when faced with situations involving potential victims and survivors of honour based violence

Work with differing communities and cultures

14. the diversity and contexts of different cultures and the needs these may generate
15. the importance of having an awareness of community and organisational links and their potential impacts on victims and survivors
16. the control mechanisms used by families and relatives on potential victims and survivors

Other relevant knowledge

17. current mechanisms available to:

17.1 refer potential victims and survivors of honour based violence

17.2 report potential victims and survivors of honour based violence

17.3 assist and support potential victims and survivors of honour based violence

18. the importance of maintaining an up to date overview of the range of support services available to potential victims and survivors of honour based violence including how to access these

19. relevant recording requirements of your organisation

Glossary

Honour based violence

Honour based violence (HBV) is a crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community. For the purposes of this standard, HBV includes forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

HBV can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. HBV is also sometimes referred to as 'harmful cultural practices'. It is a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual violence or abuse.

Safeguarding / protection

Protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity that is undertaken to protect specific people who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. Safeguarding has a wider remit and includes protection from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health or development, supporting the provision of safe and effective care, and enabling people to have optimum life chances.

Identify signs and indicators relating to honour based violence

Developed by Skills for Justice

Version Number 1

Date Approved November 2014

Indicative Review Date November 2019

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating Organisation Skills for Justice

Original URN SFJBI504

Relevant Occupations All occupations across the Justice sector; Crisis Worker; Customs Officers; Government and Related Organisations; Health, Public Services and Care; Helpline Workers; Immigration Officers; Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) ; Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA); Independent Sexual Violence Advocate; Interpreter; Managers in Justice sector services; Police; Police Community Support Officers; Police Officers; Public Service Interpreter; Public Service and Other Associate Professionals; Public Service Professionals; Public Services; Public Services and Care; Public Services Professional; Refuge Worker; Social Workers; Volunteers; Health and Social Care

Suite Addressing and responding to honour-based violence

Keywords HBV; victims; victim; survivors; survivor; abuse; domestic abuse; sexual abuse; violence; domestic violence; sexual violence; crime; reduction; support; communities; cultures; harmful cultural practices; FGM; forced marriage
