



On successful completion of this module, learners will be able to:

1. Define the term, 'Honour Based Abuse.'
2. Outline some of the catalysts for Honour Based Abuse
3. Explain initial responding officer actions in cases where Honour Based Abuse is evident.
4. State the differences between Arranged and Forced Marriage.
5. Outline the legislation in relation to Forced Marriage.
6. Explain some of the barriers to reporting Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage.
7. Describe how to identify and manage cases of Female Genital Mutilation
8. Summarise the legislation in relation to Female Genital Mutilation.

	Heshu Yones 16 yrs (2003)		Shafilea Ahmed 17 yrs (2003)
	Arash Ghorbani-Zarin 19 yrs (2005)		Samaira Nazir 25 yrs (2006)






Trainer to reveal photographs.

QTS – what do these young people have in common?

Explain that these victims all have one thing in common - they lost their lives because they were perceived to have brought shame on the family. There are many others in recent years who have suffered “honour” based violence ultimately resulting in loss of their lives.

Do not expand on the circumstances of each victim at this stage because we are going to look in detail at the life of one victim, Banaz Mahmood later in the session. Pictures of these victims, and others, appear at the end of the video about Banaz’ life.

Background reading for trainer:

Heshu Yones Age 17 at time of murder. Grade A student. Wanted to be “Western” like her friends. She started truanting to meet a boyfriend – an 18 yr old Lebanese man. This was discovered by family who took her back to Kurdistan (after having her examined to confirm she was still a virgin) to have her married. She refused. Family including brother who was a lawyer, then planned her murder. Brutally attacked at home by father with a knife. She was stabbed 11 times and had her throat slit by her father in the bathroom of her family home. Her father then attempted suicide by using

the knife and jumped from a 3rd floor balcony – he survived. Later alleged to police that he was an informant for the PKK and Al-Quieda, representatives from which had forced their way in and tried to kill him and his daughter.

Shafilea Ahmed. Suffocated at age 17 by parents in Bradford in front of siblings for being too westernised, hanging out with white people and refusing to marry an older man in Pakistan. In Pakistan she drank bleach in an attempt to kill herself, but was unsuccessful. She was brought back to the UK where her throat injuries were explained by saying she had been reaching for fruit juice in a power cut and had drunk it by mistake. She had run away from home at least twice before. Parents denied murder for years but were eventually convicted and sentenced to 25 yrs imprisonment. It took surveillance microphones in the parents' home to catch them. They were overheard telling their other children not to speak at school about it. They suffocated Shafilea using a plastic bag over her head.

Arash Ghorbani-Zarin Murdered by the family of his pregnant girlfriend because they disapproved of the relationship. The father of the girlfriend ordered his two sons to carry out the murder as the girl was already promised in an arranged marriage. Arash was stabbed 46 times in the assault.

Samaira Nazir Stabbed to death by her brother and cousin because she asked to marry her boyfriend of 5 yrs and they didn't approve of him. Samaira fell in love with a male who sold phones on a market stall (introduced to him by her brother) and her parents didn't approve. When they revealed their plans to wed, her brother – a grocer – planned the killing. The killing involved Samaira being stabbed 18 times and her throat was slashed in 3 places.

NPCC Definition of Honour Based Abuse

..an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse),
which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family &/or community's code of behaviour



QTS – what is honour based abuse?

The CPS and ACPO have a common definition of honour based violence as above. This definition is supported by further explanatory text: "Honour Based Violence" is a fundamental abuse of Human Rights. There is no honour in the commission of murder, rape, kidnap and the many other acts, behaviour and conduct which make up "violence in the name of so-called honour".

The simplicity of the above definition is not intended in any way to minimise the levels of violence, harm and hurt caused by the perpetration of such acts.

It is 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. Women are predominantly (but not exclusively) the victims of 'so called honour based violence', which is used to assert male power in order to control female autonomy and sexuality.

The Honour and Shame Mentality

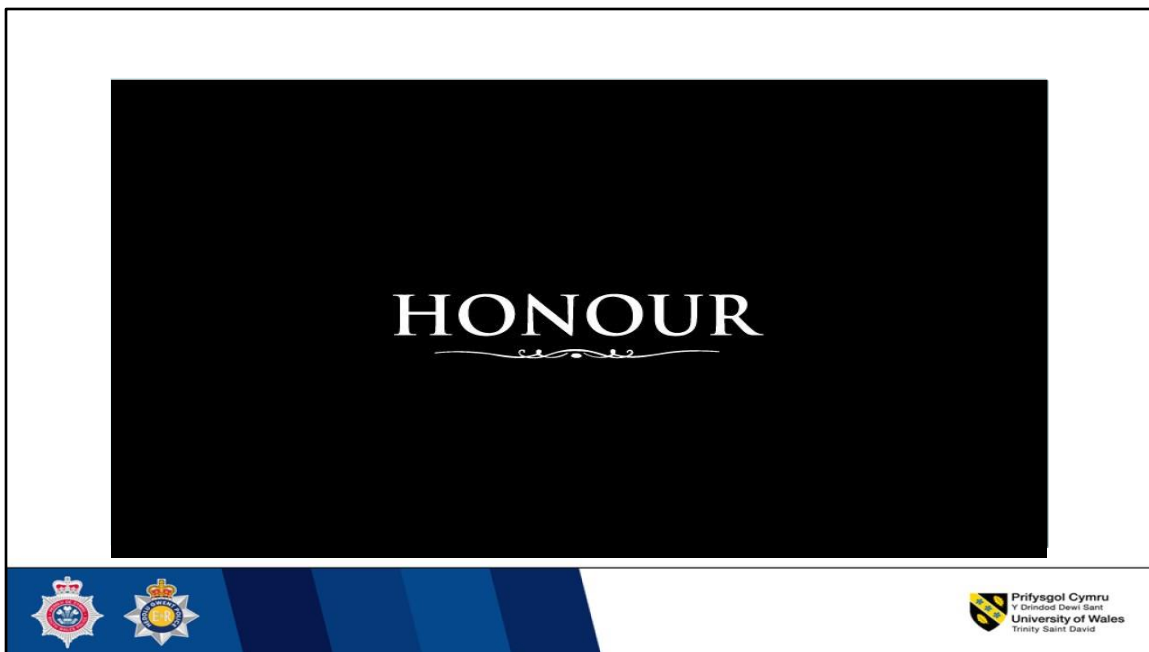
Honour is not a physical object that can be broken by certain behaviours, rather an absorbed code of conduct or a conditioning that certain communities carry out sub-consciously. There is less concern initially for the act of killings and far more

concern about preventing others from knowing about it.

The *honour* mentality tends to be a feature of what is sometimes called the *shame* culture. Shame is not really an accurate term, but there is no specific term in English to describe this value.

The concept is particularly prevalent in Arabic speaking countries, but is also found in Croatia, China, the Czech Republic, Iran, Spain, France and South Asia.

It is therefore also found in other countries which have immigrants from those areas and particularly those from the Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, South Asian, African, Middle Eastern, South and Eastern European communities.



Prior to showing the slide.

QTS – what is honour in the context of HBA?

Izzat ([Hindi-Urdu](#)) word refers to the concept of [honour](#). You may come across this word “Izzat” in discussions within the community when talking about family/community issues.

Facilitate discussion around what this means to men and women within cultural communities.

Honour, reputation, or prestige: the *izzat* of the household was at stake. The concept of dowry is so deeply rooted that even young women and men who seek to rebel against society by opposing dowry cannot do it wholeheartedly because there are issues of family honour (*maanam*, *izzat*, *maan* etc.) at stake.

Trainer to use quote and visual slide above to explain how Honour (Izzat) can be perceived and why, whilst males do have to conform to community values, the burden lies more heavily on women.

“I spoke to one young man, I think he was 21, and he said ‘Man is a piece of gold, Nazir, a woman is a piece of silk’. Now that sounds quite nice. Then he went further.

He said, 'If you drop a piece of gold in mud you can wipe it clean but if you drop a piece of silk in mud it stains forever.'

Background reading for trainer:

Izzat is powerful and persuasive. Izzat can be more important than a person's human rights -Right to life, personal liberty, security & equality Consists of a learnt complex set of rules that have to be followed in order to protect the family 'name' and maintain family position

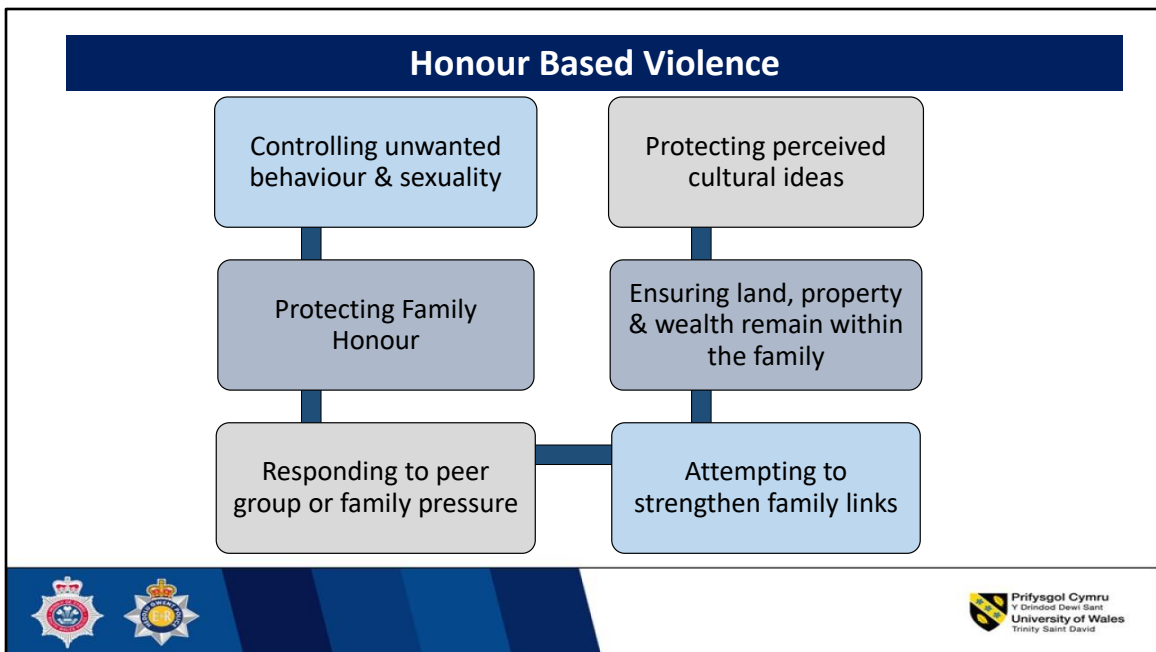
Quotes from Karma Nirvana (Support organisation) <http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/>

:"It's like the weather, you can't question it, izzat is there, it's always been around"

"It has more impact on the woman woman's life than the man s man's. It affects hows. she dresses, behaves inside and outside the house, who she can t talk to, marry, and have as friends friends"

"With every bad word a reputation can die"

'Handing down' of attitudes through generations"



QTS - what motivates families & communities to treat someone in this way?

Expected responses:

- Controlling unwanted behaviour and sexuality (including perceived promiscuity, pre-marital relationships or being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender) particularly the behaviour and sexuality of women.
- Protecting Family Honour Responding to peer group or family pressure
- Attempting to strengthen family links
- Ensuring land, property and wealth remain within the family
- Protecting perceived cultural ideals (which can often be misguided or out of date)

Honour

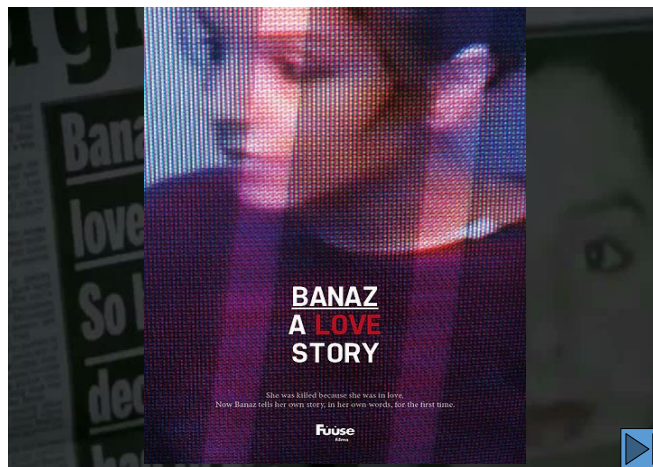
https://youtu.be/2BUxh-f_gIU



Trainer to click on 'You tube' link which will take you the presentation 'Messages to attendees of a Turning Point: in ending Honour Based Abuse' . Go 6 mins into the presentation and Payzee Mahmood (sister of Banaz Mahmood) will talk about virginity and the concept of honour.

Her talk lasts approx. 10 minutes to 16mins 19 secs

Trainer to use presentation to reinforce the concept of honour



Ask students if they have any knowledge of Banaz Mahmod? (Those who undertook DASH training may recall the circumstances surrounding her death)

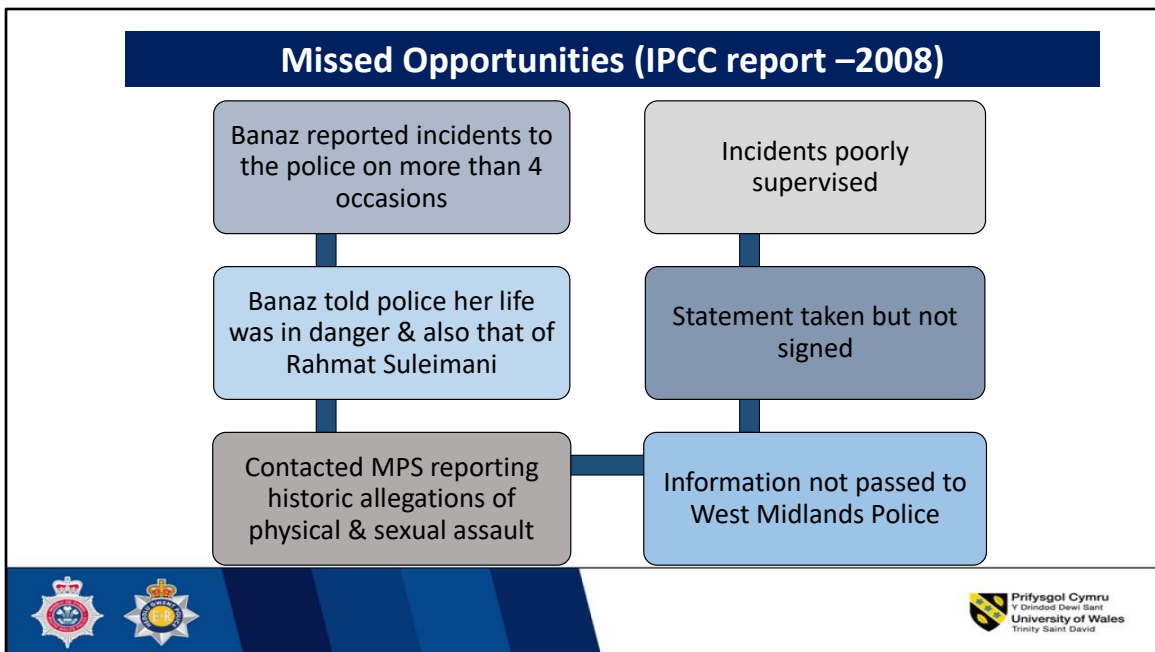
Background information for Trainer: Banaz A Love Story 2012 documentary film directed & produced by [Deevah Khan](#). Chronicles the life and death of [Banaz Mahmod](#), a young British [Kurdish](#) woman killed in 2006 in South London on the orders of her family in a so-called [honour killing](#). The film received its UK premiere at the [Raindance Film Festival](#) in London September 2012. The film was Emmy Award Winner 2013 -- Best International Current Affairs Film. Peabody Award Winner 2013 and British Royal Television Society Awards 2013 - Best Documentary, Current Affairs (nomination) **Synopsis** Banaz was born in [Iraq](#) and moved to [England](#) with her family when she was 10 years old. She was married at age 17 with a man 10 years older than her in an arranged marriage. Within months the marriage turned violent. Banaz wanted a divorce and fell in love with someone of her own choosing, this behaviour was found to be shameful by her family leading to her death in January 2006. Banaz went to the police 5 times before her death. Detective Chief Inspector Caroline Goode of the [Metropolitan Police](#) led the investigation to recover the body of Banaz and her killers, securing the first ever extradition from Iraq to Britain. Link to full version of film on You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VepuyvhHYdM>

We have an edited version of the film to be viewed by the class which is in the videos folder in the PEQF drive.

Explain that the film includes a police interview that took place with Banaz as well as significant information from DCI Caroline Goode and others within the team investigating this case. Show film to the students and facilitate discussion. Suggested questions:

- What are your thoughts in relation to what you have just seen?**
- What are your thoughts from a policing perspective?**
- Why are Honour Based Crimes so difficult for us to investigate?**



The main point of BANAZ it was all about honour and bringing shame on the family after leaving her arranged marriage.

BANAZ dishonour was to choose her own boyfriend from a different Kurdish clan. Her punishment was decided at a family of war meeting and it was decided to kill BANAZ for this. This decision was taken by several members of the family.

BANAZ had contacted the police on four different occasions and met with indifference

Physical violence – she was regularly chained under the stairs

IPCC Investigation

The Independent Police Complaints Commission investigated how the Met and West Midlands Police handled complaints from Banaz Mahmod before her death.

The IPCC said Miss Mahmod, 20, had been "let down" by police in some instances. In two specific incidents Miss Mahmod's case suffered from delays, poor supervision, "a lack of understanding and insensitivity", the IPCC concluded.

Six other detectives from the Met and West Midlands received written warnings, and one Met constable received "words of advice" over some of their dealings with the victim.

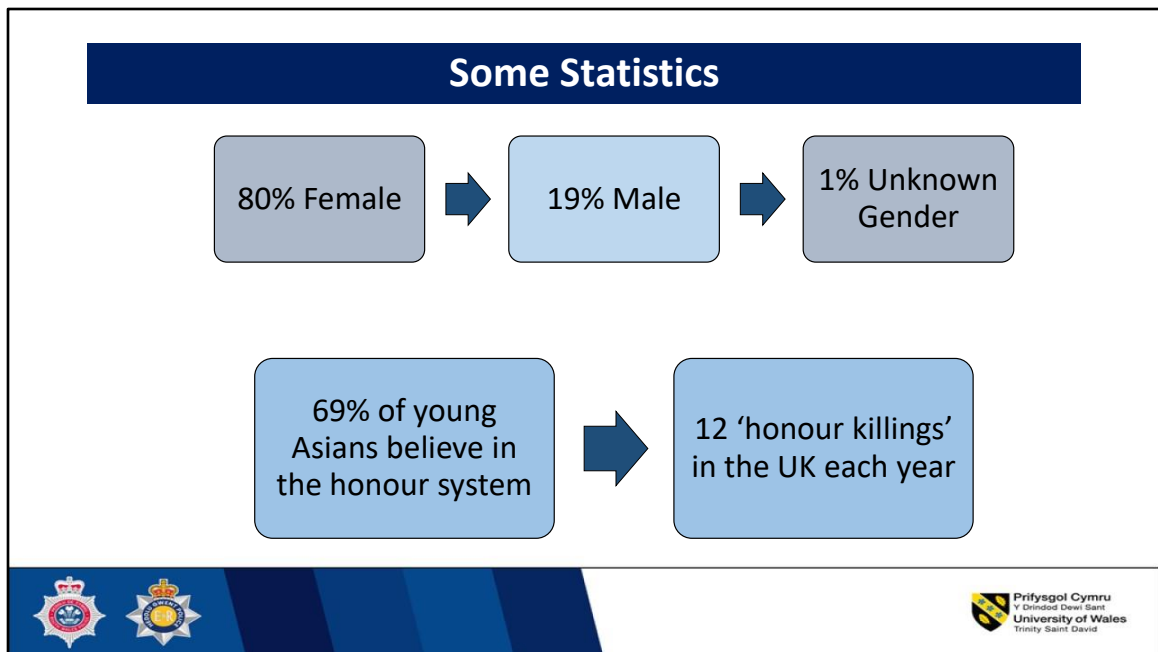
Miss Mahmood, from south London, had made several attempts to warn police that her life was in danger, even naming those she thought would kill her.

'Worst failings'

In three of the incidents investigated, the IPCC found the police force involved - the Metropolitan Police Service - had dealt with it "appropriately and sensitively".

But in two other instances they found Miss Mahmood was "let down by the service she received. There were delays in investigations, poor supervision, a lack of understanding and insensitivity".

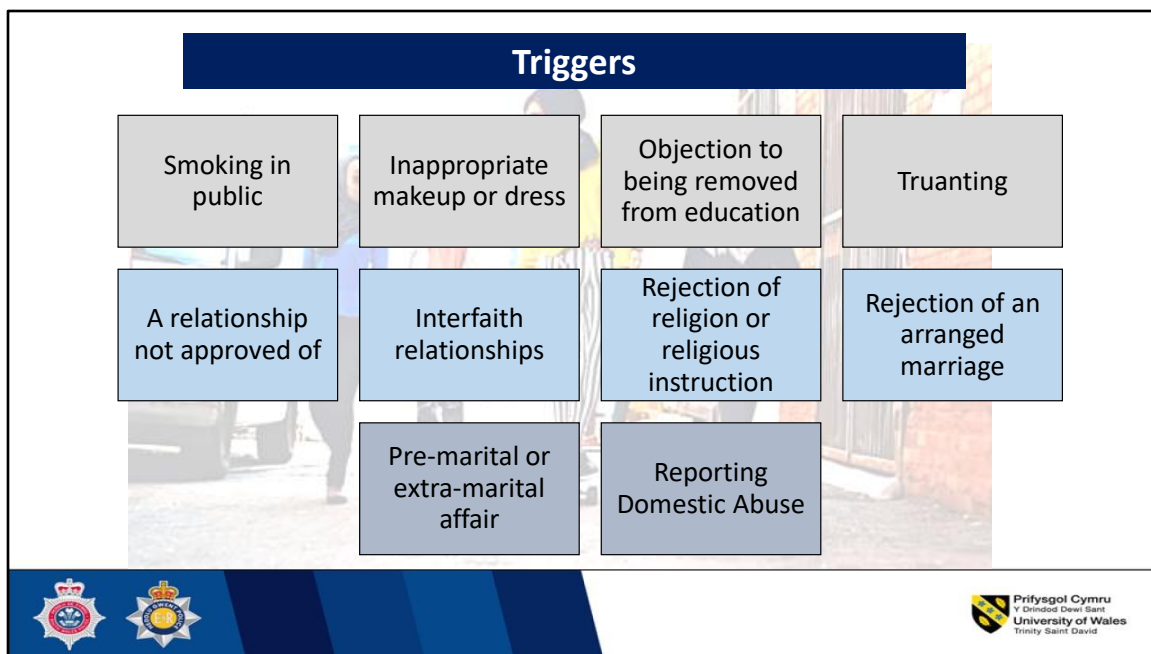
Miss Mahmood had on several occasions made allegations of threats to kill her, of other threats to her and her boyfriend, and had reported "historic" physical and sexual assaults



The following statistics are from Foreign and Commonwealth Office: 80% (1080 cases) female and 19% (262 cases) are men. 1% (13 cases) of gender is unknown. They receive on average 1359 calls per year, (based on stats between 2011 and 2018) to the Helpline. 363 of cases are under 18, 485 are 18 to 25. The helpline is open to everyone, victims and professionals. It can offer advice and has a facility to speak to survivors of honour based violence and forced marriage.

There is a UK registered charity called Karma Nirvana that supports victims and survivors of Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse. It was named in the hope that the work it seeks to undertake would make a positive impact on the lives of individuals who would by our involvement achieve a sense of peace and ultimately enlightenment.

There are 12 'honour killings' in the UK each year. This is an underestimation as we have to real idea of the true extent of the problem. Available figures are very inaccurate as there is no statutory requirement to record murders associated with HBV separately. However HMIC will be inspecting according to this criteria from September onwards.



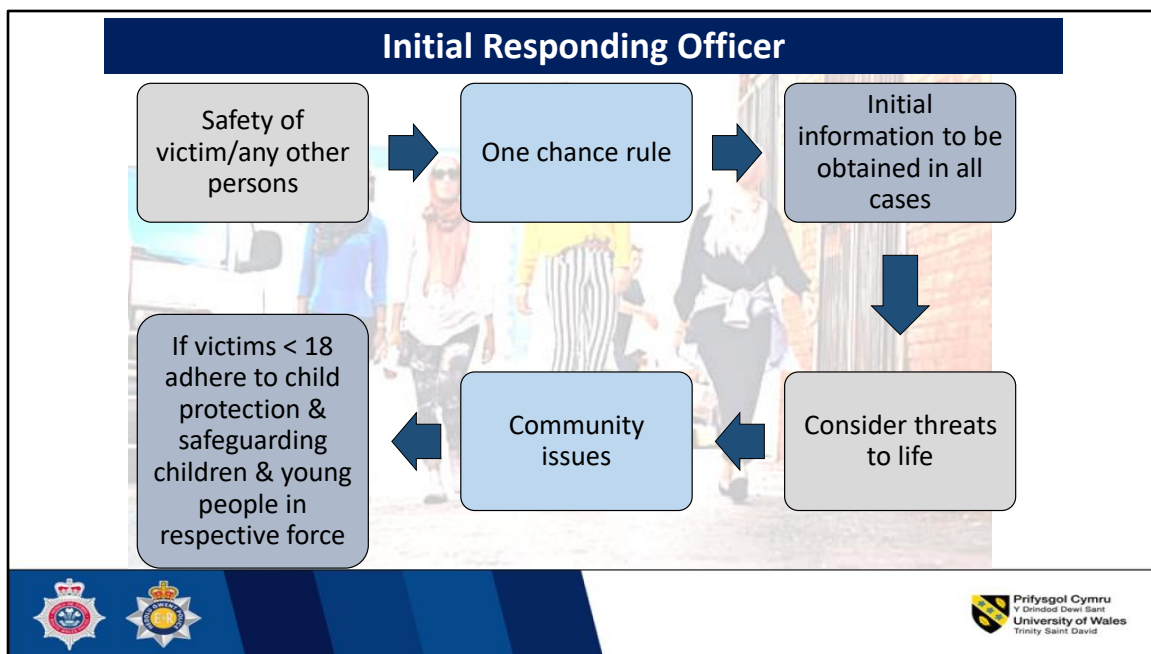
Put the word “Triggers” on the board. Pass a number of pens around the group and ask students to write on board behaviours that could result in HBV/Forced Marriage.

Answers should include:

- Smoking in public
- Inappropriate makeup or dress
- Objection to being removed from education
- Truancing
- A relationship not approved of
- Interfaith relationships
- Rejection of Religion or religious instruction
- Rejection of an arranged marriage
- Pre-marital conflict or Pre-marital or extra-marital affair
- Reporting domestic abuse

Facilitate discussion around the impact upon Victims, such as:

- Withdrawal from education
- Economic Dependency and lack of career opportunities
- Forced pregnancy/Forced child birth
- Slavery
- Self-harm
- Suicide
- Mental health Issues



QTS – what actions would you consider taking as an initial officer responding to a call of HBA?

Initial Responding Officer (also on handout – from HBA policy)

Make the immediate safety of the victim and any other persons at risk the overriding concern.

Consider **Victim/Potential Victim Contact** and the **One Chance Rule**.

Undertake **Initial Police Actions** and **Information to be Obtained in All Cases** (as appropriate).

Consider **Threats to Life**

Consider **Community Issues**.

Where necessary, ensure the victim and any others at risk are taken to a place of safety and, if the victim is under 18 years old, adhere to the SWP **Child Protection and Safeguarding Children and Young People** procedures.

Consider whether or not it is safe to use local refuges, or should a refuge outside of the area be utilised. If using local refuges this should only be after careful risk management and consultation with the victim/potential victim.

If the victim is reluctant to be removed to a Place of Safety and there is concern for their continued safety then advice should be sought from the supervisory officer.

Provide a full and comprehensive update to the Supervisory Officer at the earliest

opportunity.

Ensure Control Works / Niche markers are created for the victim and Place of Safety address.

Complete and immediately submit a Public Protection Notice (PPN).

Provide the victim with the Control Works incident/ Record of Contact (ROC) and/or Niche occurrence numbers.

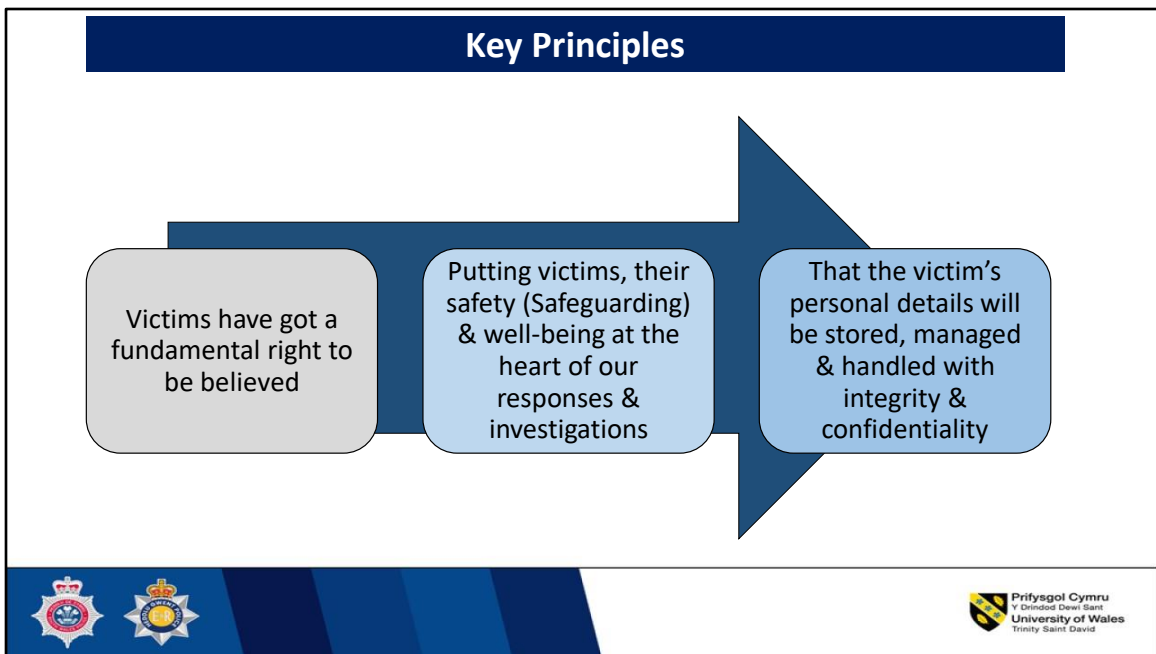
Establish if any criminal offences have been committed and crime the matter where applicable under NCRS guidelines.

Secure evidence at all stages as a prosecution may follow.

Identify any potential scenes and be mindful of golden hour principles.

Establish means of passive data recovery (CCTV, voicemail / texts / letters).

Submit intelligence reports as appropriate.



These are the Key Principles under the NPCC HBV, Forced Marriage and FGM, a Policing Strategy for England, Wales and NI 2015 – 2018 (December 2015)

Unfortunately as you will see these are not always upheld.

Forced Marriage



Trainer to click on 'You tube' link which will take you the presentation 'Messages to attendees of a Turning Point:in ending Honour Based Abuse' . Go 30 mins into the presentation and Payzee Mahmood (sister of Banaz Mahmood) will talk about her forced marriage.

Her talk lasts approximately 15 minutes (to 45mins in the video)

Trainer to place two flip charts on walls and split course into two groups.
Provide Pens.

Ask **Group One** to record words they associate with the term “**ARRANGED MARRIAGE**”

Ask **Group Two** to record words they associate with the term “**FORCED MARRIAGE**”

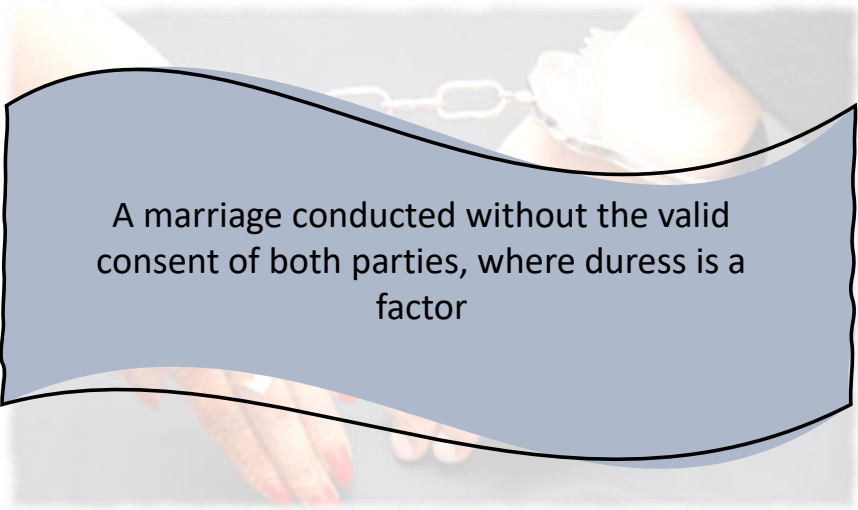
After appropriate amount of time, ask groups to swap, read words listed and add if they can.

Trainer to debrief by picking out words that need to be expanded on.

Trainer to ask... “**Why does Forced Marriage happen?**” Expected

responses: marriage is seen as a solution for perceived threat to the family honour eg if a daughter is becoming too westernised or wanting to choose a partner outside of the community.

This task leads into next slide – definition of Forced Marriage.



A marriage conducted without the valid consent of both parties, where duress is a factor



A forced marriage is a marriage that is performed under duress and without the full and informed consent or free will of both parties.

Victims of forced marriage may be the subject of physical violence, rape, abduction, false imprisonment, enslavement, emotional abuse, and murder.

It is important not to confuse 'forced' marriage with 'arranged' marriage. In the instance of an 'arranged' marriage both parties freely consent

Definition borne out of working group report "A Choice by Right" 2000 adopted by ACPO in 2008 HBV Strategy.

Excerpt from Forced Marriage Unit website: *"A forced marriage is 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. It is an appalling and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.*

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor."

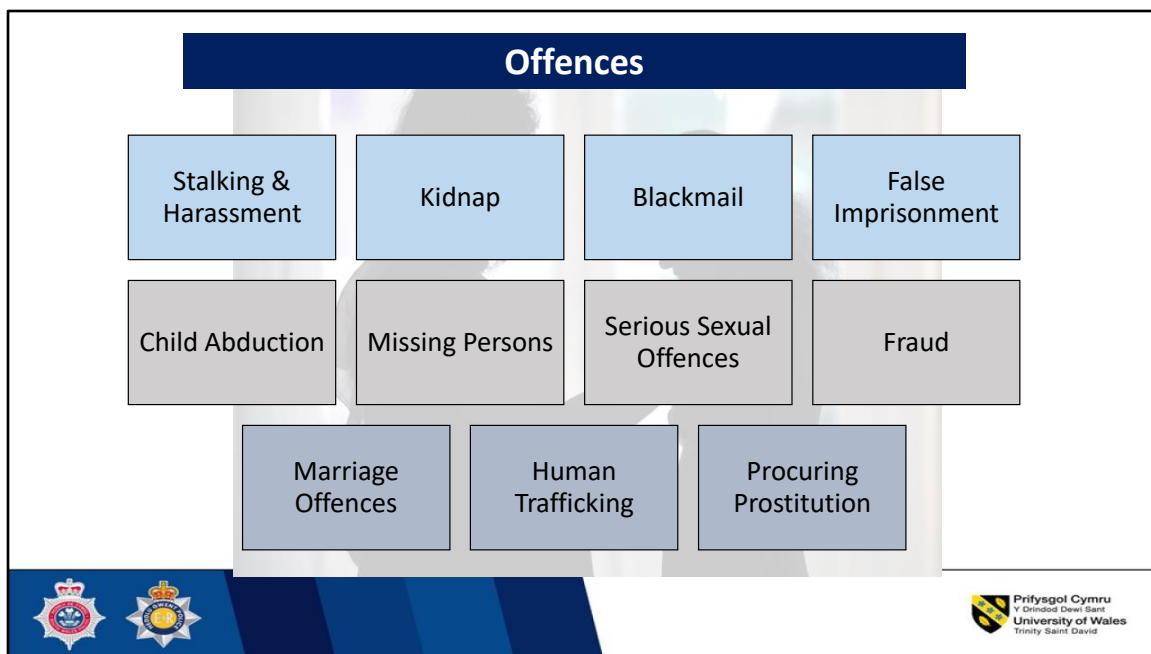
Clear distinction between a forced marriage and an arranged marriage. In arranged marriages, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the **choice** whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses. In forced marriage, one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some adults with disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved.

The Court of Appeal clarified that duress is: "...when the mind of the applicant has been overborne, howsoever that was caused".

"Howsoever it was caused" links back to domestic violence definition.

If families have to resort to violence or emotional pressure to make someone marry, that person's consent has not been given freely and therefore it is a forced marriage.

The majority of cases of forced marriage reported to date in the UK involve South Asian families. This is partly a reflection of the fact that there is a large, established South Asian population in the UK. However, it is clear that forced marriage is not solely a South Asian problem and there have been cases involving families from East Asia, in the middle East, Europe and Africa. Some forced marriages take place in the UK with no overseas element, while others involve a partner coming from overseas or a British National being sent abroad.

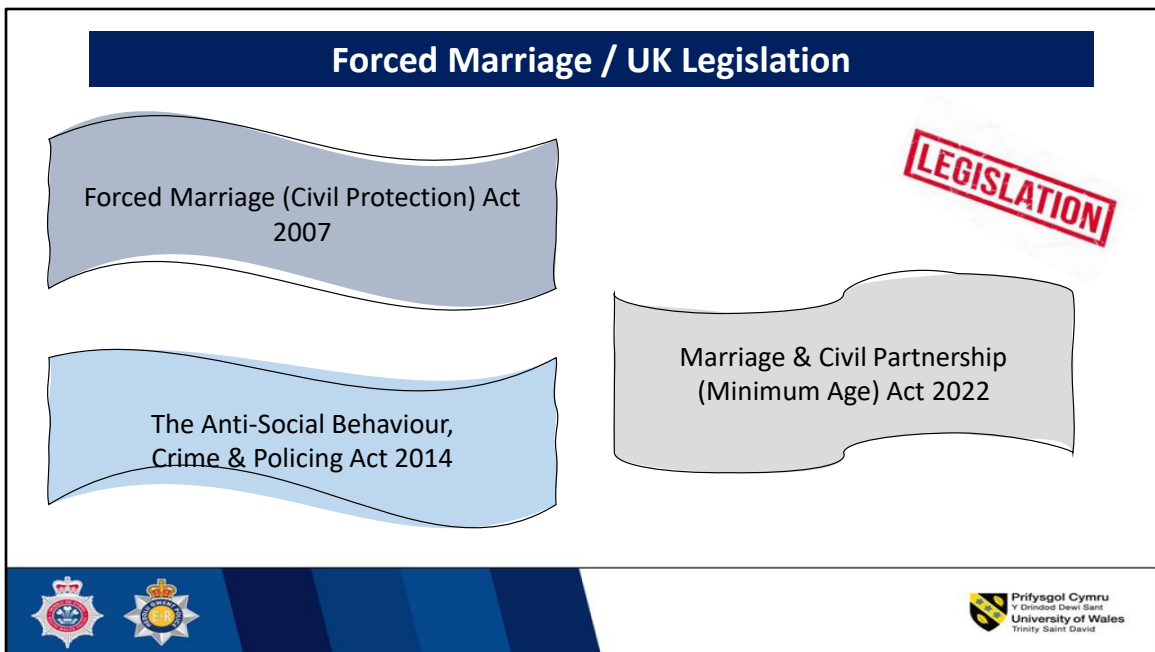


QTS – what type of offences can be linked to forced marriage?

Facilitate types of offences which could be linked to incidents of Force Marriage:

Show slide

Explain why communities may show loyalty to suspects or perpetrators of forced marriage – so called Honour Based Violence is a fundamental abuse of Human Rights. There is no honour in the commission of murder, rape, kidnap and the many other acts, behaviour and conduct which make up 'violence in the name of so-called honour'.



QTS – what does the law say in relation to forced marriage?

Until recently, under Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007, an individual could apply for Forced Marriage Civil Protection Order, or it could be done on their behalf. It made provision for the family courts to make a Forced Marriage Protection Order to prevent a forced marriage from occurring or to offer protective measures when a forced marriage has already taken place. The court's powers are quite wide and orders may contain prohibitions, restrictions or requirements or such other terms as the court thinks appropriate to stop or change the behaviour or conduct of those who would force the victim into marriage.

However, it was not considered to be a criminal offence and there was no automatic power of arrest for a breach of the order and police could only act where violence was threatened or used or where there is a risk of significant harm, either to the intended victim or to someone else in connection with the intended marriage.

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 officially came into force on 27 February 2023. This Act prohibits 16 and 17-year-olds from marrying or

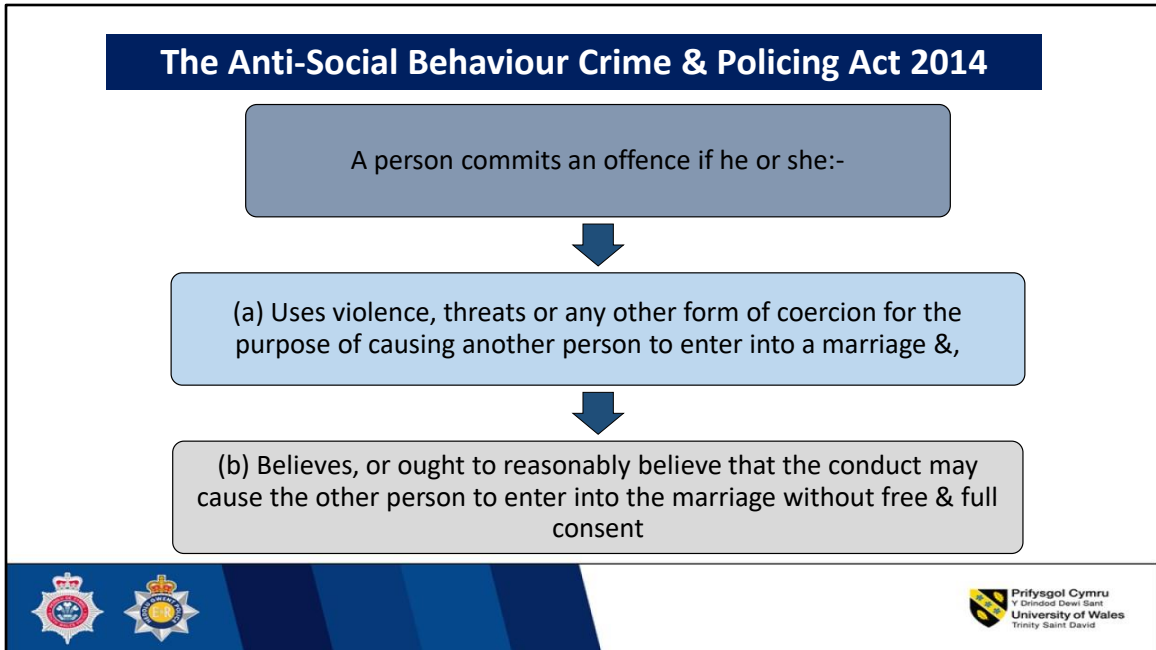
entering into a civil partnership, regardless of whether they have parental consent.

The Marriage Act 1949 has been amended and the minimum age to marry has been increased to 18 years

This new legislation aims to put an end to child marriages, which can have devastating effects on young people. Any individual found guilty of arranging a child marriage, regardless of whether force is used or not, is now committing a criminal offence and could face up to seven years in prison.

S121 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 has also been amended that :-

A person commits an offence under the law of England and Wales if he or she carries out any conduct for the purpose of causing a child to enter into a marriage before the child's eighteenth birthday (whether or not the conduct amounts to violence, threats, any other form of coercion or deception, and whether or not it is carried out in England and Wales)."



Section 121 Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 came into effect on 16 June 2014.

A person commits an offence under the law of 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.

It is this Act that criminalises forcing someone to marry.

Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is also being criminalised.

The civil remedy of obtaining a Forced Marriage Protection Order through the family courts will continue to exist alongside the new criminal offence, so victims can choose how they wish to be assisted.

Maximum penalty of seven years for committing a forced marriage offence and a maximum penalty of five years for breach of a forced marriage protection order

The Investigation

What
barriers?



In pairs, discuss and record the barriers in relation to HBV/Forced Marriage.

Expected responses:

- Loyalties to abusers. Victims may love their parents and relatives and not want to see them prosecuted – need to consider the risk
- Communication with family and the community
- Culture & religion may be used as an excuse for violence, victims will have no support and malicious allegations may be made against them – do not make assumptions, consider the evidence
- Issues of Perception of shame and dishonour
- Victim/Witness Protection Scheme
- Immigration status Do not allow this to impede police enquiries into an offence that may have been committed action the victim or their children.
- Victims with no recourse to Public Funds – see below Extract

Applying for permission to settle here as a victim of domestic violence (Settlement DV)

If your relationship with a British citizen or a person settled in the UK has broken down as a result of domestic violence, you may be able to apply for indefinite leave to

remain here. This is also referred to as permission to settle here permanently.



Trainer to click on 'Forced Marriage' and it will link into the video of a survivor's account of her experience of Forced Marriage.

QTS – how does this account differ from Payzee's?

Expected responses how the changes in legislation/ positive authority/police intervention have meant a more positive outcome for this victim as oppose to the earlier presentation from Payzee Mahmood and her experiences.

Forced Marriage Unit
<https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage>



The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) is a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office unit which was set up in January 2005 to lead on the Government's forced marriage policy, outreach and casework. It operates both inside the UK, where support is provided to any individual, and overseas, where consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals.

The FMU operates a public helpline to provide advice and support to victims of forced marriage as well as to professionals dealing with cases. The assistance provided ranges from simple safety advice, through to aiding a victim to prevent their unwanted spouse moving to the UK ('reluctant sponsor' cases), and, in extreme circumstances, to rescues of victims held against their will overseas.

The FMU undertake an extensive outreach and training programme of around 100 events a year, targeting both professionals and potential victims. The FMU also carry out media campaigns, such as 2012's 'right to choose' summer campaign, where the FMU commissioned three short films to raise awareness amongst young people at risk of being taken overseas for forced marriage.

Contact

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7008 0151

Email: fmua@fco.gov.uk

The link to their website above includes access to Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines.

FGM: What is it?

“...procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons”







Reveal heading only

QTS – what is your understanding of the term and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?

Ask whether it is a religious or cultural practise. Expected response – cultural. Explain this links to previous discussions.

This is a cultural practise where ignorance of religion is sometimes be used to pressurise families into conforming with community values.

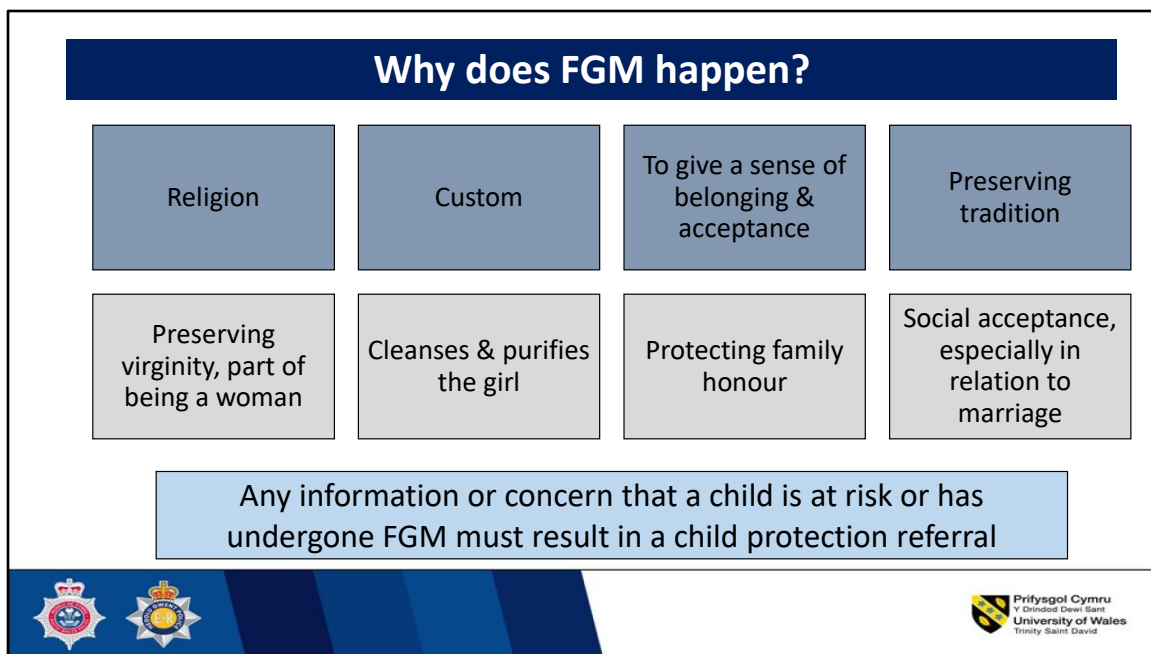
As with our previous discussions, sometimes communities hang onto practises in order to protect their identity and the values they hold.

Communities may know that the practises are illegal but the need to conform within the community means that the pressure is immense – link to discussions regarding “Honour”.

FGM constitutes a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls

FGM is illegal and must never be carried out either here or abroad

It is also illegal to help someone to carry out FGM in any way



QTS – why does FGM happen?

FGM is practised by families for a variety of complex reasons but often in the belief that it is beneficial for the girl or woman

It is usually a girl's parents or extended family who arrange for her to have FGM. Reasons for doing it include – READ LIST

Some women and girls may be subjected to FGM when a perpetrator believes they must take action to uphold their family honour. For example, if the perpetrator perceives the girl or women's actions as promiscuous they may want her to undergo FGM to preserve her virginity and control her sexual activity.

FGM is often viewed by those who support it as a natural and beneficial practice which is in the girl's or woman's best interests. This is one of the reasons a victim may be reluctant to report. FGM is normalised within the practising community and therefore it is considered part of their 'cultural identity'. Women who have undergone FGM often believe they are more attractive than women who have not. There is no religious justification for carrying out FGM, every major religion condemns it.

Women who have reported attempting to shield their daughters from FGM have stated that they and their families have felt ostracised by their community, and that nobody wanted to marry their daughters.

Any information or concern that a child is at immediate risk of, or has undergone FGM must result in a child protection referral. FGM places a child at risk of significant harm, and will, therefore be investigated under Section 47 of the Children Act (1989) by Social Services and the Police Child Protection Team(PVPU).

The Cruel Cut



Leyla Hussein is an anti-FGM activist, psychotherapist, a member of the FGM Special Initiative and co-founder of Daughters of Eve, a charity dedicated to ending gender-based violence including female genital mutilation. She presented the Channel 4 documentary “The Cruel Cut” an extract of which we are about to show you... (Full programme should be viewed by the trainer prior to delivering this session). This can be found in the PEQF drive in the videos folder as it is too large to be put onto Moodle.

The video utilises plasticine vaginas to explain different types of FGM:

Clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris (a small, sensitive and erectile part of the female genitals) and, in very rare cases, only the prepuce (the fold of skin surrounding the clitoris).

Excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (the labia are “the lips” that surround the vagina).

Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal. The seal is formed by cutting and repositioning the inner, or outer, labia, with or without removal of the clitoris.

Other: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g. pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterizing the genital area.

Why do you think this exercise was so impactful upon the group of youths when they were well aware of this practise?

Facilitate discussion in relation to the issues raised within the video. Suggested questions:

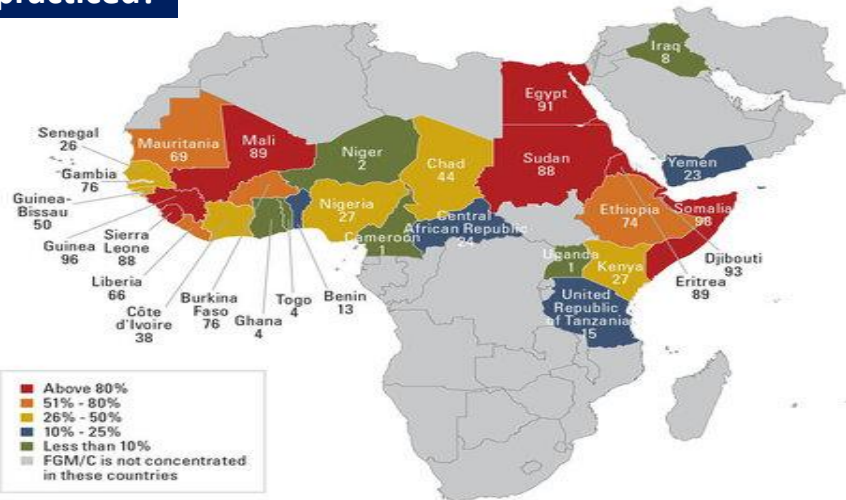
What are your thoughts on why the UK has such a low prosecution rate?

What cultural issues will you as Investigators have to deal with in collecting evidence?

Why do you think this practise is still continuing within the UK despite it being illegal for the past 28 years?

What do you think should be done to eradicate this practise within our communities?

Where is it practiced?



QTS – where is FGM practised?

FGM in varying degrees has appeared in all the continents of the world. Practiced in more than 28 countries in Africa, parts of Middle East, South East Asia, Europe, America & other countries where immigrants from FGM-affected communities live.

Countries with high numbers of incidents include:

- Burkina Faso Djibouti Egypt Eritrea Ethiopia Gambia
- Guinea Mali Sierra Leone Somalia Sudan

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ghana, Niger, Tanzania, Togo & Uganda have low occurrence of FGM. However, within each of these countries there are specific communities in which the incidence is high. Also documented in communities in Iraq, Israel, Oman, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Occupied Palestinian Territories, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Pakistan.

Ages when girls experience FGM/Cutting varies across countries. At least 80 % of cut girls in Somalia, Egypt, Chad & the Central African Republic had procedure when they were between the ages of 5 and 14, while in countries such as Nigeria, Mali, Eritrea, Ghana & Mauritania, more than 80 % of girls experienced FGM before their fifth birthday.

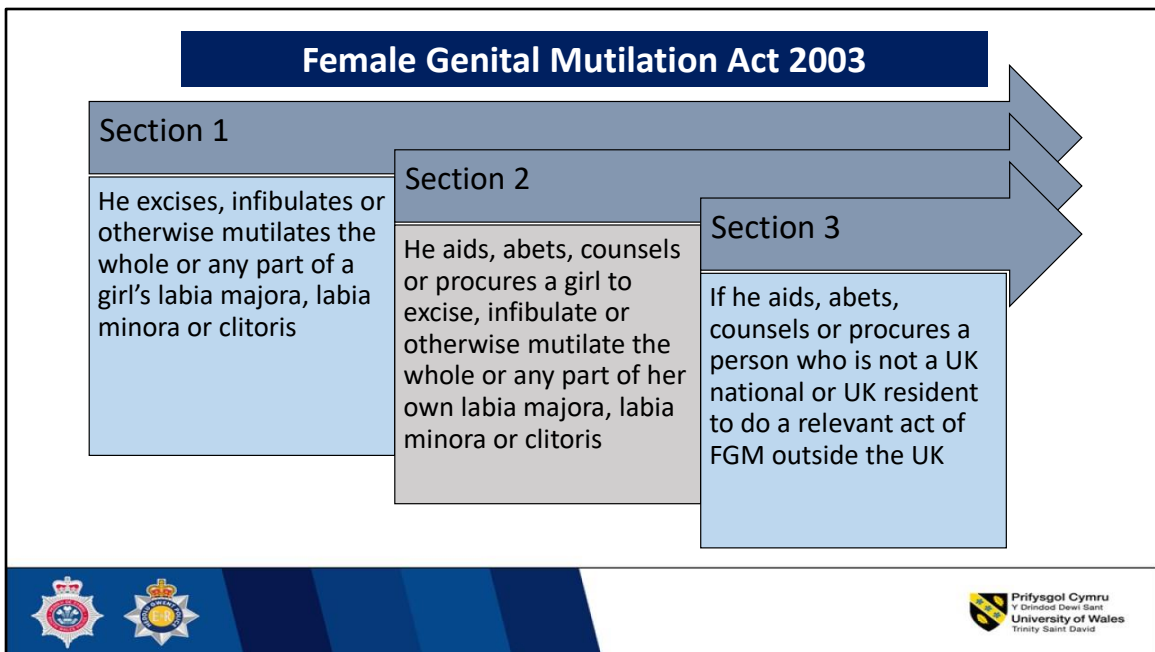
In Guinea-Bissau, about 18 % of underwent FGM after age 15, while in Kenya, 46 per

cent were not cut until after age 9.

Example of ongoing work from BAWSO on training day.... It has been recognised that economy has not previously been considered. "Cutters" earn money which can support their families. Training is being provided for cutters to allow them to earn money in different capacities so that they are less likely to promote the process.



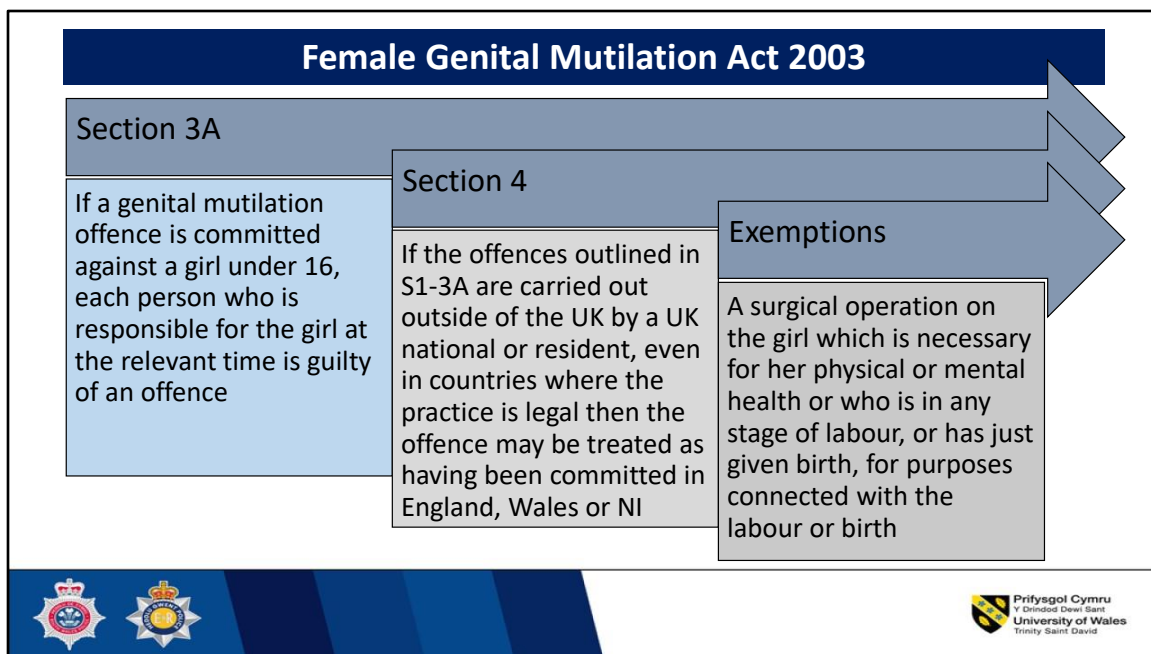
This photograph has been chosen to depict one circumstances in which FGM is performed from illegal clinics to primitive conditions with primitive tools.



QTS – what does the law say in relation to FGM?

The Act was brought into force on 3 March 2004 by the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (Commencement) Order 2004. The provisions of the Act only apply to offences committed on or after the date of commencement. For offences committed before 3 March 2004 the Prohibition of Female Circumcision 1985, as re-enacted in the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, continues to apply.

The Act affirms that it is illegal for FGM to be performed, and that it is also an offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to carry out, or aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad on a UK national or permanent UK resident, even in countries where the practice is legal.



EXEMPTIONS

The operations must be performed by approved persons which are:

In relation to an operation falling within subsection (a) above, a registered medical practitioner,

In relation to an operation falling within subsection (b) above, a registered medical practitioner, a registered midwife or a person undergoing a course of training with a view to becoming such a practitioner or midwife.

Any person found guilty of an offence under the Act will be liable to a maximum penalty of a fine or imprisonment of up to 14 years, or both.

For the purposes of this section 3A a person is 'responsible' for a girl in the following two cases.

3A(3) The first case is where the person -

- (a) has parental responsibility for the girl, and
- (b) has frequent contact with her.

3A(4) The second case is where the person -

(a) is aged 18 or over, and

(b) has assumed (and not relinquished) responsibility for caring for the girl in the manner of a parent.

3A(5) It is a defence for the defendant to show that -

(a) at the relevant time, the defendant did not think that there was a significant risk of a genital mutilation offence being committed against the girl, and could not reasonably have been expected to be aware that there was any such risk, or

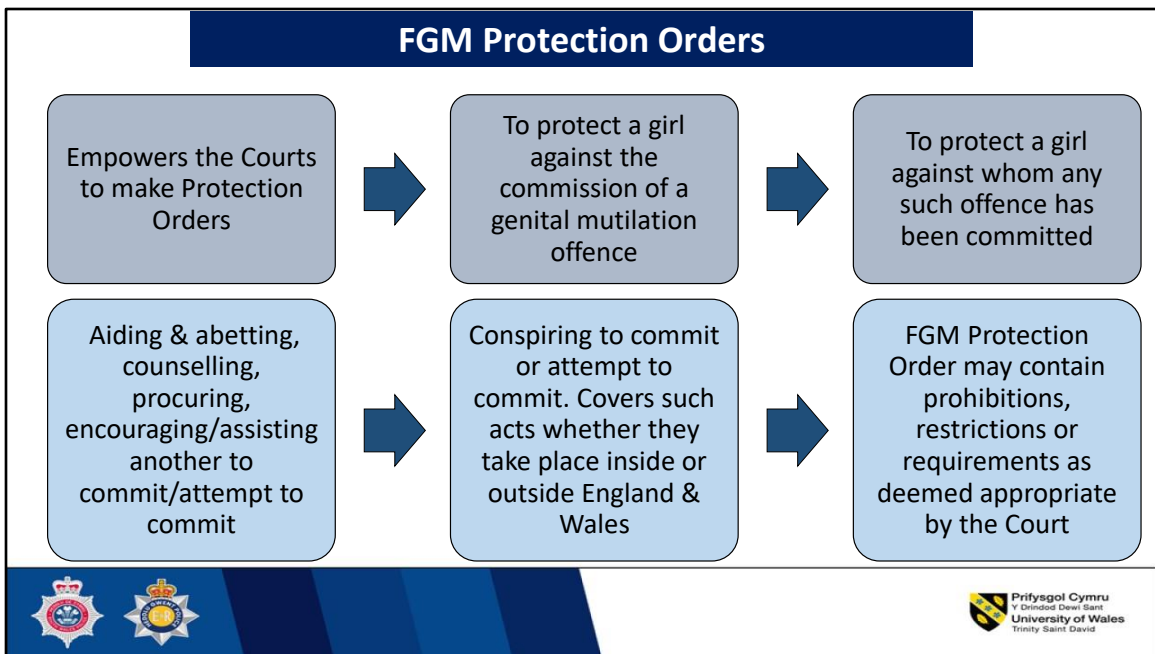
(b) the defendant took such steps as he or she could reasonably have been expected to take to protect the girl from being the victim of a genital mutilation offence.

Police have blamed a lack of evidence for the failure to convict a single person in Britain for FGM.

*****The mother of a three-year-old girl has become the first person to be found guilty of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the UK in a landmark case welcomed by campaigners. The Ugandan woman, 37, and her Ghanaian partner, 43, both from Walthamstow, east London, were accused of cutting their daughter over the 2017 summer bank holiday. While the parents were on bail, police searched the mother's home and found evidence of witchcraft, including spells aimed at silencing professionals involved in the case. Police found spells written inside 40 frozen limes and two ox tongues with screws embedded in them with the apparent aim of keeping police, social workers and lawyers quiet. The defendants, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, denied FGM and an**

alternative charge of failing to protect a girl from risk of genital mutilation. The mother cried in the dock as she was found guilty of FGM after the Old Bailey jury deliberated for less than a day. Her partner was cleared of all charges. The two defendants were jointly accused of subjecting the girl to FGM by “deliberate cutting with a sharp instrument” at her mother’s home in the presence of her father. Medics raised the alarm when the girl was taken to Whipps Cross hospital in north London with severe bleeding and a surgeon concluded the child had been cut with a scalpel. The defendants claimed their daughter had been reaching for a biscuit when she fell and cut herself on the edge of a kitchen cupboard. Medical experts confirmed the cause of her injuries were consistent with cutting rather than a fall. The victim later told specially trained officers during a series of video interviews played to the court that she had been cut by a “witch”. ***

Officers are currently carrying out searches at airports in the last days of the school holidays during what is graphically known as the “cutting season,” when girls are taken abroad to be mutilated, often to countries in Africa.



The FGM Act 2003 Act empowers the Courts to make Protection Orders for the purpose of:

- Protecting a girl against the commission of a genital mutilation offence AND
- Protecting a girl against whom any such offence has been committed.

Covers Conduct such as:

- Aiding, abetting, counselling, procuring, encouraging/ assisting another person to commit or attempt to commit
- Conspiring to commit or attempt to commit

An application for a protection order can be made by the girl herself, a 'relevant' third party e.g. the police, or any other third party with the leave of the court. The court may also make the protection order without application under certain circumstances if it believes it is in the girl's best interest. In making these orders the court has to take into account the need to secure the health, safety and well-being of the girl to be

protected.

Covers conduct such as.....

Importantly, it also covers such acts whether they are to take place inside or outside of England and Wales

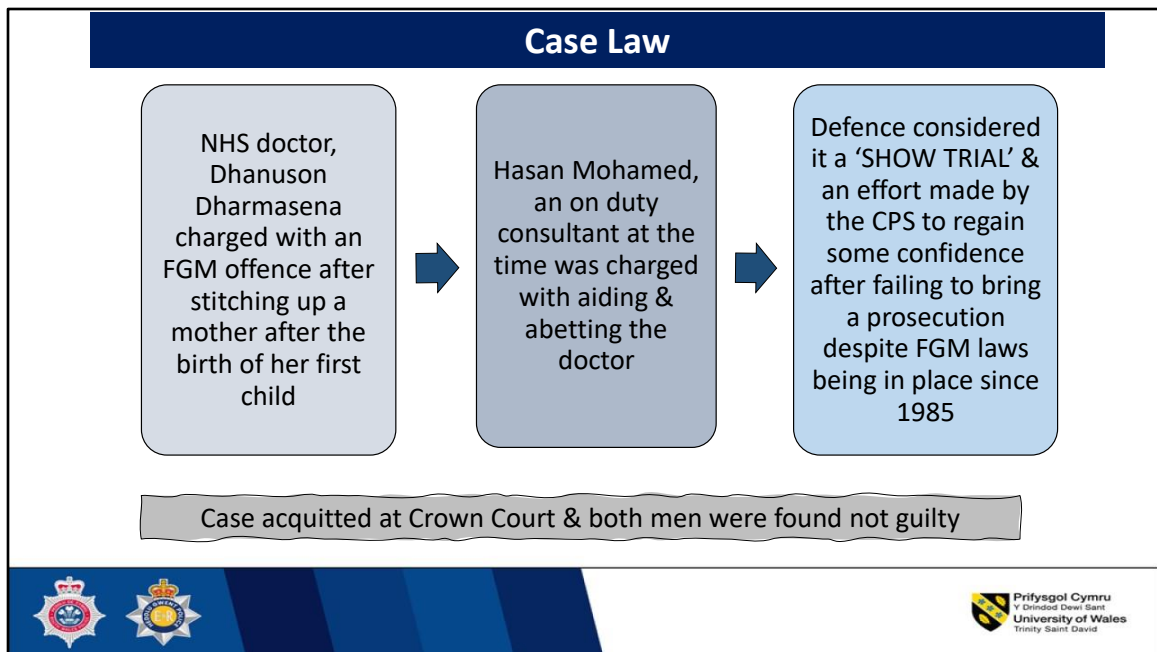
An FGM protection order may contain such prohibitions, restrictions or requirements, and such other terms as the court considers appropriate for the purposes of the order and may be made for a specified period or until varied or discharged by the court.

Equalities and justice minister Caroline Dinenage said: "We have fast-tracked these protection orders to make sure women and girls facing the awful threat of FGM can be kept safe..... and authorities are acting so quickly to use the powers. These orders mean girls and the communities around them now know they will have somewhere to turn, that the law is on their side and help is out there

In July 2015 – Bedfordshire police have secured the UK's first ever female genital mutilation protection order. They seized passports from 2 school girls who they thought could be taken to Africa to be mutilated. The order prevented the 2 young girls, they thought to be at risk, from being taken out of the country.

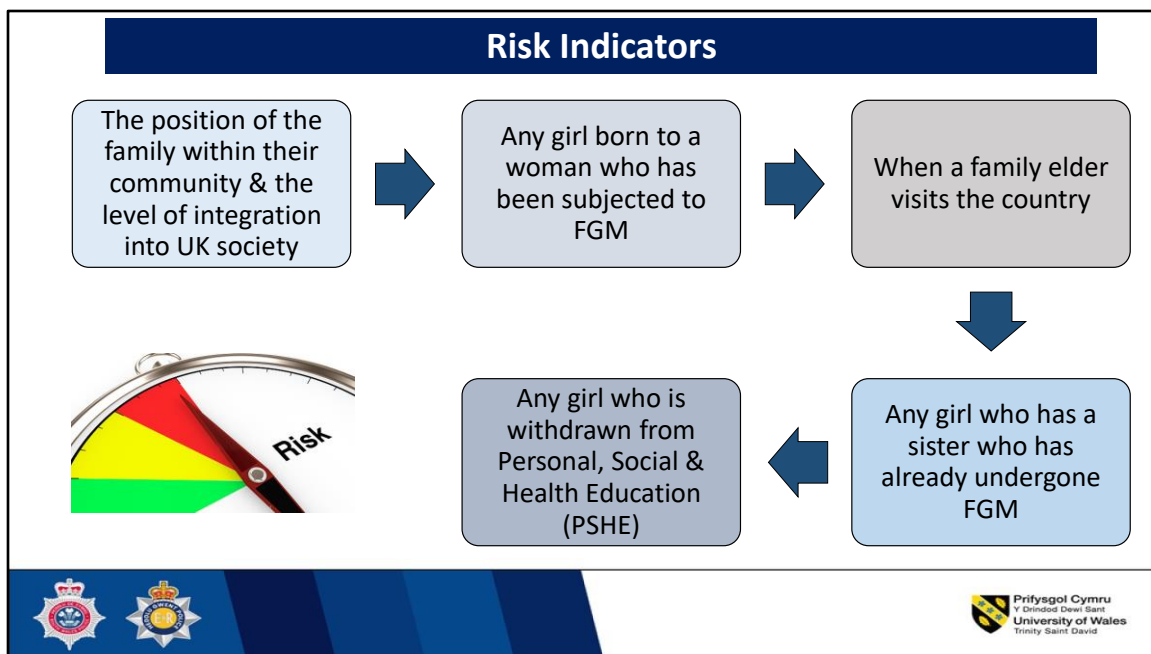
In March this year, the High Court made a baby girl the subject of an FGM Protection order. The baby girl's mother had approached medics and asked how she could get her daughter circumcised. When informed that FGM was illegal in England, the mother asked for examples of people being caught! For the safety of the baby girl, it was ruled necessary to put a protection order in place.

BREACHING A PROTECTION ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.



Dhanuson Dharmasena, 32, had been accused of illegally stitching a young mother back up after she gave birth to her first child in Whittington hospital London in November 2012. The doctor made 2 cuts to her vaginal opening in an emergency delivery to ensure the safe delivery of the baby. His prosecution was the first of its kind in Britain and had been hailed as a landmark in the campaign to stamp out the illegal practice.

But his defence barrister said that Dr Dharmasena had been "hung out to dry and made a scapegoat" for hospital failings. He claimed that the women had been let down too by the hospital, which should have picked up her condition as someone who had suffered FGM much earlier. Crown heard that the women had undergone FGM when she was six and living in Somalia and that the Dr had sutured her with a single stitch to stop her from bleeding from an incision required for childbirth, because she HAD previously been subjected to FGM.



QTS – what would be some potential indicators that a child or young person may be at risk from FGM?

There are a number of potential indicators that a child or young person may be at risk of FGM. Individually these may not indicate risk but if two or more indicators are present this could signal a risk. Signs that a person may be at risk of undergoing FGM are as follows:

- The position of the family within their community and the level of integration into UK society
- Any girl born to a woman who has been subjected to FGM
- When a family elder visits the country
- Any girl who has a sister who has already undergone FGM.
- Any girl who is withdrawn from Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) less integrated communities are more likely to practise FGM.
- Any girl born to a women who has been subjected to FGM includes those in extended families!
- Where there are siblings there is risk. Any child who has a sister who has

undergone FGM is also at risk themselves

- Any girl who is withdrawn from Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) could be at risk as a result of her parent's wishes to keep her uninformed about her body and her rights.

Suspensions or Signs?	
<u>Suspensions</u> may arise in a number of ways: Preparations to take the child abroad Planning medium to long term absence from school. The child may also talk about a special procedure/ceremony that is going to take place. Other family members having undergone the procedure. The arrival of family members from countries that have traditionally practised FGM.	<u>Warning signs</u> that FGM may have taken place: Behavioural changes (e.g. withdrawn from friends/ social groups) Health problems A lengthy absence from school Having difficulty walking, sitting or standing Spending longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet If the professional (e.g. teacher) has heard the girl making reference to other children about it.




Trainer to split class into groups and provide them with flipchart paper and pens.

QTS – what sort of things should you look out for that may make you suspicious that FGM is going to take place and what warning signs would indicate that FGM has taken place?

As well as identifying risk it is important to look out for signs that FGM has already taken place. This will ensure the victim can be offered help to deal with the consequences of FGM

Health problems including bladder and menstrual issues and complaints about pain between their legs are signs.

Also be aware of potential victims who mention something that has happened to them which they are not allowed to talk about.

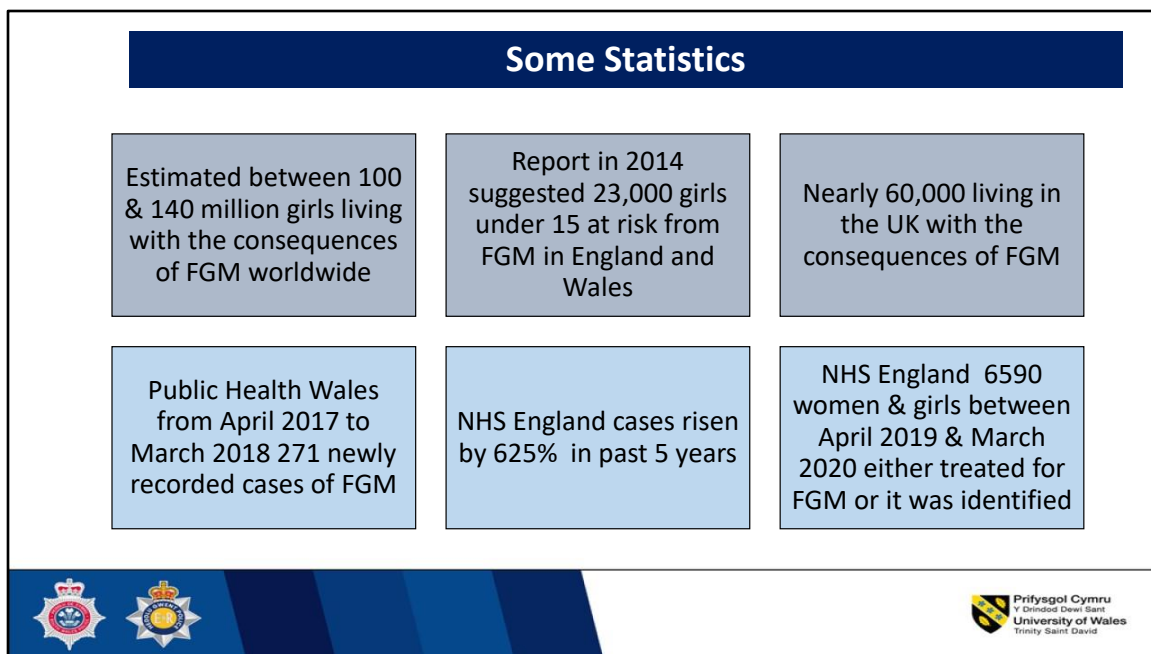
A girl or woman who has undergone FGM may:

have difficulty walking, sitting or standing

spend longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet
complain about pain between her legs
display unusual behaviour after an absence from school or college
be particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations
ask for help but not explain the problem explicitly due to embarrassment or fear
talk of something somebody did to her that she is not allowed to talk about.

Historically, children have been taken abroad at the start of the British school summer holidays for the procedure to take place and give them time to heal before returning to school. They normally return in September when school restarts.

Although many referrals may be circumstantial in the first instance, a thorough investigation should take place. Parents are unlikely to admit that they are in favour of FGM when asked, so officers should look for other indications that a child may be at risk.



QTS – what is the scale of the problem in the UK?

It is estimated that more than 20,000 girls younger than 15 in the UK were at risk of FGM each year, but very few cases are reported.

The HSCIC (Health and Social Care Information Centre for England) found that, in 75% of newly recorded cases, women and girls themselves reported that they had suffered FGM, rather than it being reported by someone else. Among those who went to the NHS, 43 had undergone deinfibulation, or “reversal”, where the vagina is reopened after a large part of it has been sewn shut, in the most extreme form of mutilation.

Since the HSCIC started to record FGM data in September 2014, there have been 4,989 cases reported nationally with more than 1000 receiving NHS treatment.

Tackling FGM has risen up the political agenda since last year, after high-profile campaigns and international gatherings attracted public support, schools have been written to about the dangers and steps have been taken to ensure that cases are recorded and support available

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a hidden crime, so it is difficult to accurately say how common it is.

The less extreme type of FGM can be more difficult to identify.

Between 100 million and 140 million women and girls are thought to be living with the consequences of female genital mutilation, according to the World Health Organisation.

A report published in 2014, suggests 23,000 girls under 15 could be at risk of FGM in England and Wales and nearly 60,000 women could be living with the consequences of FGM.

In 2013, [Unicef](#) published an analysis of the prevalence of FGM in Africa and the Middle East. Using more than 70 national surveys, produced over a period of more than 20 years, the report focused on the 29 countries where the practice is most common.

[Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales: National and local estimates](#) was published by City University London and Equality Now in July 2015. The report provides further estimates of the numbers of women with female genital mutilation (FGM) living in England and Wales, the numbers of women with FGM giving birth and the numbers of girls born to women with FGM.

Public Health Wales FGM Statistics Report April 2017 to March 2018 Date: May 2018
Version: Final Page: 2 of 16 There were 271 newly recorded cases of FGM reported, compared to 174 for the previous year. Three quarters of all cases relate to women or girls from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB). The type of FGM was reported for 89% of 271 women and children; type 1 (see page 14 for explanation of types) had the highest incidence (37%). In combination, Types 1, 2 and 3 covered 85% of known FGM types. The country of origin was reported for 78% of 275 women and girls, with Sudan and Somalia most frequently reported. It was not possible to separate the data on women and girls. Therefore, the data collection tool has been updated to identify total children and adult numbers, and where FGM has taken place.

NHS figures in England reveal cases recorded as happening in England have risen by 625% in the past five years.

According to the statistics released by NHS Digital July 23 2020, there were 6,590

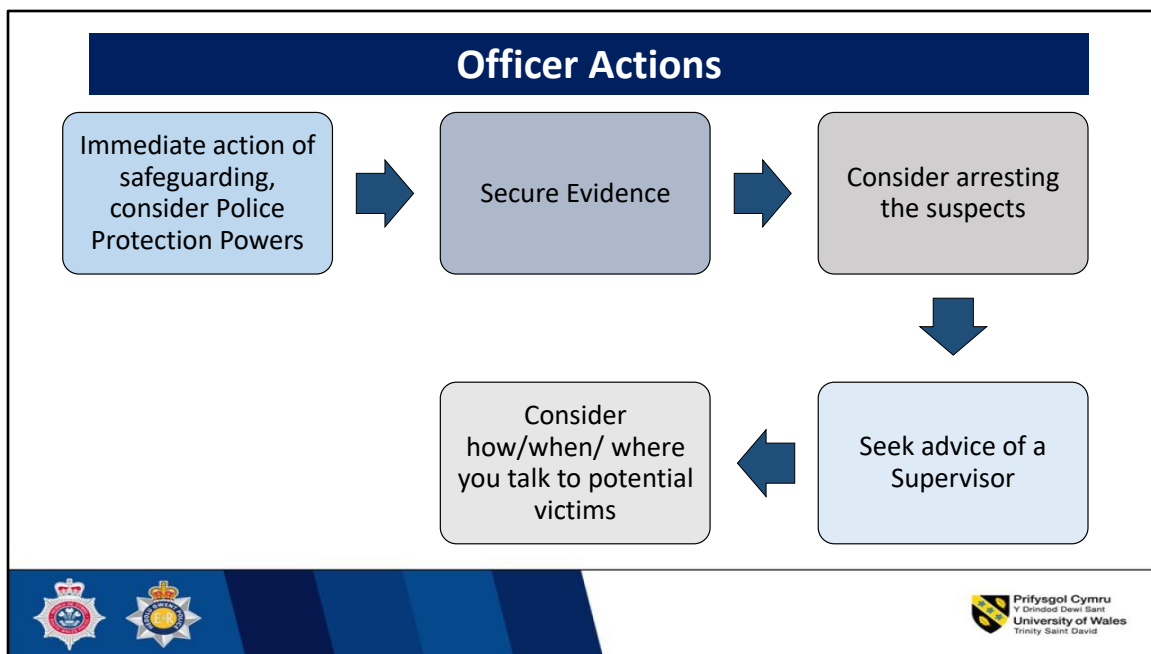
women and girls who either had a procedure to treat their FGM or were identified as having undergone FGM previously when they were treated between April 2019 and March 2020.

Of those, the FGM happened in England in 145 cases.

This is compared to 20 cases in the financial year 2015-16, when the NHS started recording this data. In that year there were a total of 6,195 individuals treated for FGM.

Some 85% of cases recorded in England during the past financial year are classified as 'type 4 FGM', which includes piercings. These are considered a form of FGM by the World Health Organisation.

It is likely that there are more cases occurring in areas of the UK with large communities from practicing countries such as London, Cardiff, Manchester, Sheffield, Northampton, Birmingham, Oxford, Crawley, Reading, Slough and Milton Keynes.



Trainer to divide whiteboard into two sections QTS - students to write answers to Q1 on the left, answers to Q2 on the right

Q1 – what should we do as police officers if we are dealing with a potential victim of FGM?

Q2 – what are some of the things we should consider when talking to the victim?

If an officer becomes aware of a girl or woman at risk of FGM, they should:

- take immediate steps to make that person safe – safeguarding action may be appropriate, including taking a child into emergency protection
- take immediate steps to secure evidence of an [offence](#), including a preparatory offence under sections 44–46 of the Serious Crime Act 2007
- consider arresting suspects
- seek advice of a supervisor

Emergency protection powers can be used when children are at risk of FGM. The relevant powers are:

Police protection powers under [section 46 of the Children Act 1989](#), see [APP on child abuse, police protection](#). This allows a child at risk of 'significant harm' to be removed to a place of safety for up to 72 hours and is a police decision.

Emergency protection orders under [section 44 of the Children Act 1989](#). These are issued by a court where a child is in 'imminent danger', usually on application by the local authority, although a designated police officer could also apply.

When talking to potential victims about FGM, officers should:

- ensure that the person is made safe
- ensure that a female officer conducts the interview wherever possible
- consider that the person may not wish to see a police officer from their community
- create an opportunity for the individual to disclose by speaking to them alone and in private – this may require making arrangements for the person to speak to an officer in a safe setting on a later occasion
- ensure no family or community member is present – consider using an appropriate adult rather than a family member when interviewing a minor
- make no assumptions
- give the individual time to talk
- be sensitive to the intimate nature of the subject
- be sensitive to the fact that the individual may be loyal to their parents
- be non-judgmental (pointing out the illegality and health risks of the practice but not blaming the girl or woman)
- use simple language and ask straightforward questions
- avoid loaded or offensive terminology such as 'mutilation'
- adopt a victim-centred approach – offer accurate information about the person's choices and rights and respect their wishes where possible.

See handout – initial actions to assist in debrief, also to be handed to students

BAWSO Guidelines for Police Officers

Although officers should consider & research cultural matters around this issue, FGM investigation should be robust & enforce the law.

Officers should not let fears of being branded a “racist” or insensitive to cultural conditions weaken their investigative strategy

Bawso

Providing specialist services for BME communities



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Facilitate discussion around this statement taken from BAWSO's information pack “Tackling Female Genital Mutilation Together in Wales” Information Resource Pack.

Cultural acceptance does not mean accepting the unacceptable!

BAWSO (Black Association of Women Step Out) provides specialist services in Wales to people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds who are affected by domestic abuse and human trafficking.

Provide packs where possible. However, if these are not available, provide a photocopy of the Guidelines for Police Officer contained within the pack. Allow students the opportunity to read this information and facilitate discussion as appropriate.



Female Genital Mutilation

Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216669/dh_124588.pdf



BAWSO FGM Project

<http://www.bawso.org.uk/our-services/women/female-genital-mutilation-project/>



Metropolitan Police Project Azure Team
02071612888

<http://content.met.police.uk/News/CUT--Some-Wounds-Never-Heal/1260269158604/1257246745756>



Information/links provided on slide:

1. HM Government Guidelines.

Aim: "This document seeks to provide advice and support to frontline professionals who have responsibilities to safeguard children and protect adults from the abuses associated with FGM. As it is unlikely that any single agency will be able to meet the multiple needs of someone affected by FG, this document sets out a multi-agency response and strategies to encourage agencies to cooperate and work together"

2. BAWSO (Black and Asian Women Step Out) FGM Project Team

3. Project Azure – Met. Specialist Team dealing with FGM.

Metropolitan Police Female Genital Mutilation Prevention Campaign

The Summer Holidays have been identified as a time when girls are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of FGM by being flown out to countries which openly practice FGM, or by having the procedure conducted on them at home, utilising the holiday period as recovery time. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has developed Project Azure to tackle this issue, and they are working in conjunction with London Safeguarding Children Board, British Medical

Association, AFRUCA, FORWARD, Agency for Culture and Change Management and Crimestoppers for this purpose. Project Azure is aiming to raise awareness about FGM, particularly in relation to the health implications for the victims and the legal implications for anyone arranging or participating in this practice, and has developed an electronic FGM Training and Briefing pack to be widely disseminated to any agency or voluntary organisation whose staff has contact with children.

