

HONOR DIARIES

Honor Violence **FACTSHEET**



[Defining Honor Violence](#) | [Why It Matters](#) | [Trends In Honor Killing](#)

[Who Is Affected](#) | [Laws and Law Enforcement](#) | [Why Does It Happen](#) | [What Can You Do?](#)

[Videos](#) | [More Information](#)

Defining Honor Violence

Honor violence is violence against an individual who has ‘dishonored’ their family.¹ Victims of honor violence are targeted because their behavior violates cultural or religious norms.² The assailant feels that the only way to restore family honor is to harm or kill the victim. Victims are **shot, stoned, burned, buried alive, strangled, smothered, and stabbed** in the name of restoring honor.³

Why It Matters

Honor violence is a widespread phenomenon that represents the most horrific outcome of a patriarchal, honor-based society in which honor is considered more important than human life.⁴

Trends in Honor Killing

- Honor violence is often premeditated and planned by several family members.⁶
- People who commit honor violence believe that their conduct is justified and receive support from their community.⁷
- Women are usually the victims of honor violence, but men are also targeted if they are suspected of being homosexual or for refusing an arranged marriage.⁸

¹ “Ethics Guide, Honor Crimes”, *BBC*, 2012.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/honourcrimes/crimesofhonour_1.shtml

² Honor Violence – What Is Honor Violence? *Ayyan Hirsi Ali Foundation*,
<http://theahafoundation.org/issues/honor-violence/>

³ “Impunity for domestic violence, ‘honour killings’ cannot continue” *UN*, March 2010

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33971&Cr=violence+against+women&Cr1#.UKpKmrugM4>

⁴ BBC. Ethics Guide, Honor Crimes. 2012.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/honourcrimes/crimesofhonour_1.html

⁵ “Culture of Discrimination: A Fact Sheet on “Honor” Killings”, *Amnesty International*, 2012; “Honor Violence and Forced Marriage. A Training Curriculum for Law Enforcement and Child Protective Professionals”, *Ayyan Hirsi Ali Foundation*

http://theahafoundation.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/AHA_Training_HV_FM1.pdf

⁶ “Report: Honor Killing in Iran” *Land Info Country of Origin Information Centre*, May 2009

http://www.landinfo.no/asset/960/1/960_1.pdf

⁷ “Culture of Discrimination: A Fact Sheet on “Honor” Killings”, *Amnesty International*, 2012

⁸ Honor Violence and Forced Marriage: A Training Curriculum for Law Enforcement and Child Protective Professionals

- The assailant is usually the husband, father, or brother of the victim.⁹
- Women are abused and murdered for a variety of reasons, including: talking to an unrelated man, refusing an arranged marriage, seeking a divorce, or disobeying her husband or father.^{10,11}
- Women who have been raped have been murdered for the 'dishonor' it brings to their family.¹²

Who Is Affected

- There are **5,000 honor killings** reported every year around the world.¹³ Experts estimate that the actual number of honor killings is much higher.¹⁴
- Honor violence has been reported in **Canada, Great Britain, United States, Sweden, Germany, France,**¹⁵ **Bangladesh, Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Gaza, West Bank, Italy, Jordan, Pakistan, Morocco, Sweden, Turkey, Uganda, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran.**¹⁶

http://theahafoundation.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/AHA_Training_HV_FM1.pdf

⁹“Culture of Discrimination: A Fact Sheet on “Honor” Killings”, *Amnesty International*, 2012; “Honor Crimes”. *Foundation for Women’s Dignity and Rights*, 2009

http://www.fondationppr.org/honour-crimes_en128.html; “Honour killings in Pakistan alarmingly high, Human Rights Watch.”, *Daily Times* (Pakistan) November 26th, 2011

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011%5C11%5C26%5Cstory_26-11-2011_pg7_15

¹⁰ Chintamani Rout, “Honour Killing: Descend and Dimensions.”, *International Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, Volume 2, Issue 1. June 2012, pg. 18

¹¹ “Culture of Discrimination: A Fact Sheet on “Honor” Killings”, *Amnesty International*, 2012

¹² BBC. Ethics Guide, Honor Crimes, 2012.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/honourcrimes/crimesofhonour_1.shtml

¹³ ‘Impunity for domestic violence, ‘honour killings’ cannot continue- UN Official” *United Nations*, March 2010

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33971&Cr=violence+against+women&Cr1#.UKpKmrugM4>

¹⁴Robert Fisk, “The Crimewave that shames the world”, *The Independent*, September 7th, 2010

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/commentators/fisk/robert-fisk-the-crimewave-that-shames-the-world-2072201.html>; Robert Kiener, “Honor Killings”, *Global Researcher*, Volume 5, Number 8, April 19th, 2011, pg. 185 <http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/hpschmitz/PSC354/PSC354Readings/HonorKillings.pdf>;

“Alleged ‘honour killings’ in Canada”, *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*, December 2nd, 2011, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2011/12/02/f-honour-killings.html>

Yotam Feldner, “Honor” Murders - Why the Perps Get Off Easy.” *Middle East Quarterly*. December 2000, Volume 7, No. 4, pages 41-50.

<http://www.meforum.org/50/honor-murders-why-the-perps-get-off-easy>

¹⁵ See Honor Violence in the West Fact Sheet

¹⁶ Thousands of Women Killed for Family “Honor”. Hillary Mayell. February 2002.

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/02/0212_020212_honorkilling.html

- Honor killings are most widely reported in regions throughout the **Middle East** and **South Asia**.¹⁷
- Honor killings are more prevalent, though not exclusively, in countries with a majority **Muslim** population.¹⁸
- **India** has **1000** honor killings per year.¹⁹
- **Pakistan** has **1000** honor killings per year.²⁰
- In **Afghanistan**, more than **50** women were murdered for honor during the summer of 2012.²¹
- In **Turkey**, in order to be technically innocent of murder, families sometimes force the woman to commit suicide.²²

Laws and Law Enforcement

- In **Jordan** and **Iraq**, honor killings are in a separate legal category – murderers benefit lighter sentencing for honor killings.^{23,24}
- In **Pakistan**, tribal courts may order honor-based violence in cases of family disputes.^{25,26}

¹⁷ “Culture of Discrimination: A Fact Sheet on “Honor” Killings”, *Amnesty International*, 2012

¹⁸ “Civil and Political Rights, Including Questions of: Disappearances and Summary Executions: Report of the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Asma Jahangir: Submitted Pursuant to Commission on Human Rights Resolution 1999/35 (E/CN.4/2000/3).” *Commission on Human Rights, United Nations*. Pg. 27
[http://www.unhcr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/0/b72f2cfe9aa28e58802568ab003c572e/\\$FILE/G0010389.pdf](http://www.unhcr.ch/Huridocda/Huridoca.nsf/0/b72f2cfe9aa28e58802568ab003c572e/$FILE/G0010389.pdf)

¹⁹ “Frequently Asked Questions about Honour Based Violence (HBV) and Honour Killings”, *Honor Based Violence Awareness Network (HBVA), International Resource Center*.
<http://honour-killings.com/faq/#ten>

²⁰ Rob Crilly, “1,000 Pakistani women and girls honour killing victims”, *The Telegraph*, March 22nd, 2012
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/pakistan/9160515/1000-Pakistani-women-and-girls-honour-killing-victims.html>; Kerry McQueenly, “Nearly 1,000 Pakistani women were victims of honour killings.”, *Daily Mail*, March 22nd, 2012. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2118931/Nearly-1-000-Pakistani-women-victims-honour-killings-year.html>

²¹ “The AIHRC condemns the killing of a woman in Shenwari district of Parwan province” Press Release, July 2012.
<http://www.aihrc.org.af/en/press-release/1101/the-aihrc-condemns-the-killing-of-a-woman-in-shenwari.html>

²² Dan Bilefsky, “How to avoid honor killing in Turkey? Honor suicide.”, *New York Times*, July 16th, 2006.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/07/16/world/europe/16turkey.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

²³ Yotam Feldner, “Honor” Murders – Why the Perps Get Off Easy.” *Middle East Quarterly*, December 2000, Volume 7, No. 4, pages 41–50.
<http://www.meforum.org/50/honor-murders-why-the-perps-get-off-easy>

²⁴ “Honor Killings By Region” *Honor Based Violence Awareness Network (HBVA), International Resource Center*
<http://honour-killings.com/regions/>

- In **Jordan**, Article 430 protects men who murder their wives for committing adultery. The Islamic Action Front (IAF) stated, "Cancelling Article 340 would contradict the *Sharia*."²⁷ The same leniency exists in West Bank which has seen an increase in Honor Violence and murder. Although, attempts at reform have been made honor violence and murder still is prevalent.²⁸
- In **Iran**, the legal system is based on *Sharia*. According to the Iranian Penal Code Article 630, a husband is allowed to murder his wife without penalty if he suspects she committed adultery.^{29,30}

Why Does It Happen

- Honor violence is based on the belief that women are objects – women are considered the property of male relatives and are responsible for upholding the family honor.³¹
- Families believe that they have to preserve their ‘honor’ by punishing the woman who acted ‘dishonorably.’³²
- Honor violence occurs in patriarchal communities where male status and family status are prioritized above all else.³³

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ "Pakistan: Honor Killing of Girls and Women", *Amnesty International*, September 1999. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA33/018/1999/en/9fe83c27-e0f1-11dd-be39-2d4003be4450/asa330181999en.pdf>

²⁷"Jordan: Tribunals No Substitute for Reforms on 'Honor Killings'." *Human Rights Watch* (HRW), September 9th, 2009, <http://www.hrw.org/news/2009/09/01/jordan-tribunals-no-substitute-reforms-honor-killings> ; Sherifa Zahur, "Criminal Law, Sexuality, and Women in the Middle East" in Pinar Ilkkaracan (ed.), *Deconstructing sexuality in the Middle East*. (Ashgate Publishing Company. Burlington, VT., 2008) pg. 21-23;

"Jordan: Contents of Article 340 of the Penal Code regarding honour killings", *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada*, March 2000, <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6ad6348.html>

²⁸ Harriet Sherwood, "Death in the West Bank: the story of an 'honour' killing", *The Guardian*, June 30th, 2011 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/jun/30/honour-killing-west-bank-palestine> ; "Honor Killings on the rise in the West Bank, Palestinian Authority calls for Cultural Change" *World Tribune*, August 28th, 2012 <http://worldtribune.us/2012/08/28/honor-killings-on-the-rise-in-west-bank-palestinian-authority-calls-for-culture-change/>;

²⁹ "Report: Honor Killing in Iran", *Land Info Country of Origin Information Centre*, May 2009. http://www.landinfo.no/asset/960/1/960_1.pdf

³⁰ Sherifa Zahur, "Criminal Law, Sexuality, and Women in the Middle East" in Pinar Ilkkaracan (ed.), *Deconstructing sexuality in the Middle East*. (Ashgate Publishing Company. Burlington, VT., 2008) pg. 23

³¹ "The urgent need to combat so-called 'honor crimes'." *Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe*. June 2009 <http://assembly.coe.int/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc09/EDOC11943.pdf>

³² Ibid.

- Law enforcement rarely enforces penalties for honor violence. If a man is arrested, he often receives a reduced sentence.³⁴

What Can You Do

Campaigns:

Kurdish Women Action Against Honor Killing – <http://www.kwrw.org/kwahk/>
Kurdish Women Action Against Honor Killing (KWAHK) is a network of Kurdish and non-Kurdish activists, lawyers and academic researchers.

KWAHK aims to raise national and international awareness about the issue of violence against women in the Kurdish communities, in particular honor killing, both in Kurdistan and in the Diaspora.

Say No: Unite to End Violence Against Women –

<http://saynotoviolence.org/issue>

Violence against women and girls has many manifestations — from the most universally prevalent forms of domestic and sexual violence, to harmful practices, abuse during pregnancy, so-called honor killings and other types of femicide.

Videos

United Nations – Honor Killings: Turkey

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtUS_JSxnl

Honor Killings (March 2009)

<http://edition.cnn.com/video/#/video/international/2009/03/05/damon.honor.crimes.cnn?iref=videosearch>

Honor Killings Shock Pakistan | Video – ABC News

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/video?id=5733226>

³³ “Culture of Discrimination: A Fact Sheet on “Honor” Killings”, *Amnesty International*, 2012

³⁴ *Ibid.*

More Information

Ayaan Hirsi Ali (AHA) Foundation - Honor Violence and Forced Marriage
http://theahafoundation.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/AHA_Training_HV_FM1.pdf