



FACTSHEET:
HONOR VIOLENCE WEST

I don't think
PEOPLE ARE AWARE
of just how
PREVALENT IT IS
and that it is **HAPPENING**
in the United States.

-RAQUEL SARASWATI



HONOR DIARIES: HONOR VIOLENCE WEST FACTSHEET

Defining Honor Violence In The West

Honor-based 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
- Honor-based violence in Europe and North America has become more common due to an increasing amount of immigrants from honor-based communities.⁶

Trends in Honor Killing

- Honor violence in the west follows similar trends as honor violence in the east.⁷

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

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

² Honor Violence - What Is Honor Violence? *Ayaan Hirsi Ali (AHA) Foundation*

<http://theahafoundation.org/issues/honor-violence/>

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

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33971&Cr=violence+against+women&Cr1#.UKpKmrugGM4>

⁴ “Ethics Guide, Honor Crimes.” *BBC*. 2012.

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

⁵ “Honor Violence and Forced Marriage. A Training Curriculum for Law Enforcement and Child Protective Professionals” *Ayaan Hirsi Ali (AHA) Foundation*

⁶ “Honour Related Violence: A European Resource Book”. Stockholm, 2005.

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/hrvresourcebook.pdf>



HONOR DIARIES: HONOR VIOLENCE WEST FACTSHEET

- It is considered dishonorable for an immigrant from an honor-based culture to assimilate into Western society.⁸
- Families and spouses use emotional and physical violence to force women conform to their community's traditions and cultural norms.⁹

Who Is Affected¹⁰

- Honor Violence has occurred in **Europe, North America and Canada.**
- In **Europe and North America**, 97% of honor-based violence victims are young women from **South Asian and Middle Eastern** communities.¹¹
- In the **United Kingdom**, there were more than **2800** incidents of honor-based violence reported to the police and there are at least **12** honor murders a year.

¹²

Up to **17,000** women in **Britain** are subjected to honor-based violence every year. ¹³

⁷ James Brandon and Salam Hafez, "Crimes of the Community: Honor-Based Violence in the UK." *The Centre for Social Cohesion*. January 2008 <http://www.civitas.org.uk/pdf/CrimesOfTheCommunity.pdf>

⁸ *ibid.* pp. 4-7

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ These statistics are believed by many experts to be the tip of the iceberg and it is important to remember that many incidents go unreported or may be reported as suicides. See footnote 12 and 13.

¹¹ "Ethics Guide, Honor Crimes." *BBC*. 2012.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/honourcrimes/crimesofhonour_1.shtml ; "Honor killings' in USA raise concerns", *USA Today*, November 30th, 2009 http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-11-29-honor-killings-in-the-US_N.htm ; Aruna Papp, "Calling out honour-based violence" *National Post*. November 25th, 2012. <http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2012/11/25/aruna-papp-calling-out-honour-based-violence/>

¹² "Nearly 3000 cases of 'honour' violence every year in the UK. ", *Iranian -Kurdish Women's Rights Organization (IKWRO)*, December 3rd, 2011

<http://ikwro.org.uk/2011/12/03/nearly-3000-cases-of-honour-violence-every-year-in-the-uk/> ; Gordon Rayner and John Bingham, "Tulay Goren murder: 'honour' crimes doubling every year, figures show", *The Telegraph*, December 18th, 2009 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/6835482/Tulay-Goren-murder-honour-crimes-doubling-every-year-figures-show.html>

¹³ *ibid.* ; "A question of honour: Police say 17,000 women are victims every year", *The Independent*, February 10th, 2008

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/a-question-of-honour-police-say-17000-women-are-victims-every-year-780522.html>



HONOR DIARIES: HONOR VIOLENCE WEST FACTSHEET

- In the **Netherlands** there are around **12** honor killings reported with **400–600** honor violence reported annually. HBV has been reported in **Turkish, Kurdish, Afghan Moroccan, and Iraqi** immigrant communities.¹⁴
- In **Germany** there are about **12** honor killings annually reported.¹⁵
- In **Calgary** (Canada) in 2011, there were **40** cases of honor-based violence.¹⁶
- At least **1,000** women have been the victims of honor-based violence crimes in **Finland**.¹⁷
- In **Turkey and Sweden**¹⁸, in order to be technically innocent of murder, families force the ‘dishonored’ woman to commit suicide.¹⁹

Laws and Law Enforcement

- **Finland** does not have adequate guidelines to handle honor-based violence.²⁰
- Six out of ten mosques in **Sweden** advocated **violating Swedish law** to women who asked about abuse and polygamy.²¹

¹⁴ “Eerwraak in Nederland: honderden gevallen, 13 doden”, *Elsevier*, September 14th, 2010, <http://www.elsevier.nl/Ne,derland/nieuws/2010/9/Eerwraak-in-Nederland-honderden-gevallen-13-doden-ELSEVIER275713W/>

Abigail R. Esman “Honor Violence in America.” *The Gatestone Institute* July 18th, 2012 <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/3176/honor-violence-in-america>

¹⁵ Abigail R. Esman “Honor Violence in America.” *The Gatestone Institute* July 18th, 2012 <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/3176/honor-violence-in-america>;

Executive summary of D. Oberwittler, and J. Kasselt, Honour Killings in Germany. *A study based on prosecution files*, (Köln: Wolters Kluwer Deutschland 2011) pp. 1-3

http://www.mpicc.de/shared/data/pdf/honourkillingsgermany_execsummary.pdf

¹⁶ Clara Ho. “Calgary Police Service pioneers in targeting honor violence.” *Calgary Herald* June 2012

¹⁷ “Silence Hinders Victims of Honor Crimes” *YLE Uutiset*. February 7th, 2011

http://yle.fi/uutiset/silence_hinders_victims_of_honour_crimes/2699731

¹⁸ Honour Related Violence: A European Resource Book. Stockholm, 2005.

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/hrvresourcebook.pdf>

¹⁹ 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

²⁰ “Thousands of girls reportedly being subjected to honor-based violence in Finland.” *Helsingin Sanomat - International Edition*, March 2011

<http://www.hs.fi/english/article/Thousands+of++girls+reportedly+being+subjected+to+honour-related+violence+in+Finland/1135264150586>



HONOR DIARIES: HONOR VIOLENCE WEST FACTSHEET

- In the **UK** there is a forced marriage unit and a national hotline, Karma Nirvana, for forced marriage and honor based violence.
- However, political correctness prevents people from intervening in honor-based crime: teachers, police and local authorities hesitate to take action for fear of being called '**racist**' or '**Islamophobic**'.²² Victims of honor based violence are often unwilling to step forward because it means a) cutting ties with the family b) may lead to imprisonment of family members c) fear of reprisal
- **Calgary** is the only province in **Canada** that keeps statistics about honor-based violence.²³
- Many cases of honor-related violence are not reported in **Australia, North America, and Europe**.²⁴
- Statistics and data on Honor Violence is practically non-existent in the **United States** with law- enforcement officials admitting that many do not have a working definition of honor violence.²⁵

Why Does It Happen

- Honor violence occurs in patriarchal communities where women are considered the property of male relatives and are responsible for upholding family honor.^{26,27}

²¹ Mosques' advice: 'don't report abusive husbands'. The Local: Sweden's News in English. May 2012
<http://www.thelocal.se/40866/20120516#.ULyAoLukGM4>

²² James Brandon and Salam Hafez, "Crimes of the Community: Honor-Based Violence in the UK." *The Centre for Social Cohesion*. January 2008, pp. 103-105 <http://www.civitas.org.uk/pdf/CrimesOfTheCommunity.pdf>

²³ " Calgary police lead the way in keeping track of honor violence" , *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)* , May 30th, 2012

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/story/2012/05/30/calgary-police-stats-honour-violence.html>

²⁴ James Brandon and Salam Hafez, "Crimes of the Community: Honor-Based Violence in the UK." *The Centre for Social Cohesion*. January 2008, pp. 103-105 <http://www.civitas.org.uk/pdf/CrimesOfTheCommunity.pdf>

²⁵ Julia Dahl, "'Honor killing' under growing scrutiny in the U.S.", *CBS News*, April 4th, 2012,
http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-57409395-504083/honor-killing-under-growing-scrutiny-in-the-u.s/



HONOR DIARIES: HONOR VIOLENCE WEST FACTSHEET

- People who commit honor violence believe that their conduct is justified and receive support from their community.²⁸
- Families believe that they have to preserve their ‘honor’ by punishing the woman who acted ‘dishonorably.’²⁹

What Can You Do

Campaigns:

Honor Based Violence Awareness Network (HBVA) – <http://honour-killings.com/about/> HBVA (Honor Based Violence Awareness Network) is an international digital resource center working to advance understanding of HBV (honour based violence) and forced marriage through research, documentation, information and training for professionals who may encounter women, girls and men at risk of these forms of abuse.

Karma Nirvana – <http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/-who-are-we.html>

Karma Nirvana supports victims and survivors of forced marriage and honor-based abuse. Karma Nirvana provides education through accredited training, including seminars, conferences and workshops. Expert call-handlers provide confidential listening support, options and guidance to all professionals, victims and survivors of honor-based abuse through a national helpline.

Metropolitan Police Service

http://safe.met.police.uk/crimes_of_honour/consequences_and_the_law.html

²⁶ “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>

²⁷ “Culture of Discrimination: A Fact Sheet on “Honor” Killings.”, *Amnesty International*, 2012

²⁸ “Honor Violence – What Is Honor Violence?”, Ayaan Hirsi Ali (AHA) Foundation

<http://theahafoundation.org/issues/honor-violence/>

²⁹ 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>



HONOR DIARIES: HONOR VIOLENCE WEST FACTSHEET

The Metropolitan Police Service records and investigates all instances of honor-based violence, even in cases where there is only a small amount of information or when a victim has not reported it themselves. We do this so that we can provide more protection that could prevent further abuse or violence or in some cases, forced marriage.

The Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organization (IKWRO) <http://ikwro.org.uk/> IKWRO provides advice and support to Middle Eastern women and girls living in the UK who are facing honor-based violence, domestic abuse, forced marriage or female genital mutilation.

The Tahirih Justice Center <http://www.tahirih.org/> works to protect immigrant women and girls seeking justice in the United States from gender-based violence.

To learn more:

<http://www.civitas.org.uk/pdf/CrimesOfTheCommunity.pdf>

<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/hrvresourcebook.pdf>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmhaff/263/263i.pdf>

Videos:

BBC Panorama: Britain's Crimes Of Honour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyunVoRKL8k>

ABC News: Family Found Guilty in Honor Killings

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/video/family-found-guilty-honor-killings-15472219>



HONOR DIARIES: HONOR VIOLENCE WEST FACTSHEET

CNN: Culture Vs. Religion in Honor Killings

<http://edition.cnn.com/video/#/video/bestoftv/2012/01/30/exp-point-manji-canada-honor-murder.cnn?iref=videosearch>

Honor Killings in the US

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7404602n>

More Information:

Centre for Social Cohesion – Crimes of the Community: Honor-based Violence in the UK

http://www.socialcohesion.co.uk/files/1301650858_1.pdf

AHA Foundation – Honor Violence and Forced Marriage

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