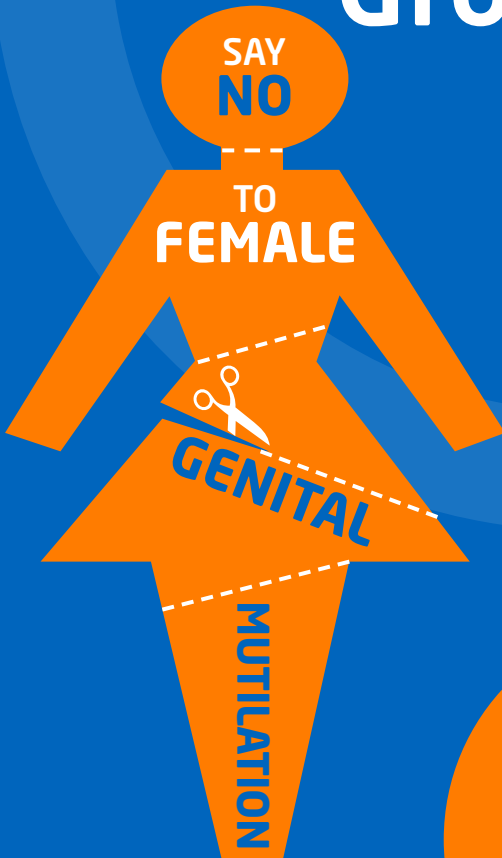


Cheshire Harmful Practices Group



Forced Marriage



Forced Marriage is illegal in the UK and it's an abuse of a child's or adults Human Rights. It can affect girls and boys and it can happen to adults too.

Families force their children to marry for a variety of reasons, including

- It's an important part of religion or culture
- Wanting to marry their children off in exchange for money
- Feeling pressured by their community or family members to follow traditions (honour)

It's not the same as an arranged marriage.

In an arranged marriage, people always have a choice.

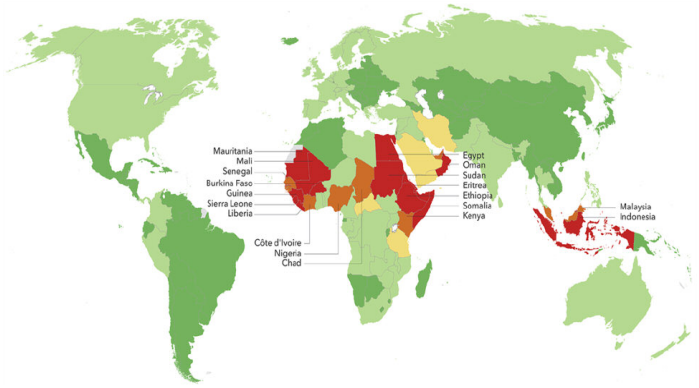
Sometimes an arranged marriage can lead to a forced marriage if the person agrees to marry someone but then changes their mind.

Click on the links below to learn more about:

[Identifying and Responding to Forced Marriage](#)

[Childline support for Forced Marriage](#)





Female Genital Mutilation/Breast Ironing

FGM involves the deliberate altering or removal of the genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as 'female circumcision' or 'cutting'.

Breast Ironing or flattening involves the strapping or pounding of breasts over a period of time to reduce their size or delay their development.

These practices are carried out for cultural, religious and social reasons. Some families and communities believe that FGM benefits the girl e.g. preparing them for marriage or childbirth and that breast ironing deters unwanted sexual attention.

Both practices are harmful and illegal. They aren't required by any religion and cause significant health problems, even death.

Click the links to learn more about:

[Mandatory Reporting of FGM](#)

[Identifying and Responding to FGM](#)

[Identifying and Responding to Breast Ironing](#)



Honour-Based Abuse



Remembering Shafilea Ahmed

The concept of 'honour' for some communities is extremely important and to compromise this is to bring dishonour and shame.

The punishment for bringing dishonour can be emotional abuse, physical abuse, family disownment and in some cases even murder.

There are often multiple perpetrators from the immediate family, sometimes the extended family and occasionally the community at large involved in this abuse. It is not determined by gender; both perpetrators and victims can be male or female.

Honour crimes are most prevalent within communities from South Asia, the Middle East, and North and East Africa. Reports come from Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Orthodox Jewish and occasionally traveller communities.

Click the links to learn more about:

[Identifying and Responding to HBA](#)

[Supporting victims of HBA](#)



Harmful Practices



The National FGM Centre have created a helpful booklet that dispels the myths in relation to Harmful Practices you can find it here

Harmful Practices - The most common misconceptions

Useful Information / Related Websites

Pan Cheshire Harmful Practices Procedures and Strategy

<https://www.proceduresonline.com/pancheshire/>

Forced Marriage Unit

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage>

National FGM Centre

<http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/fgm/fgm-resources/>

Karma Nirvana

<https://karmanirvana.org.uk/>



Who we are:

This group operates on behalf of the Safeguarding Children Partnerships and Local Safeguarding Adult Boards in Halton, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West. It is made up of strategic leads from the Local Authority, Education, Health, Police and Community Engagement.

What we do:

This group has been established on a short-term basis with the remit of ensuring that there is a co-ordinated and confident multi-agency response which effectively protects children and adults at risk of Harmful Practices in Cheshire.

This includes:

1. Ensuring procedures & strategies are in place
2. Raising awareness across the multi-agency workforce.
3. Ensuring there is positive protection and support systems for victims.

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If you or someone you know are in immediate danger call 999.

If you are concerned about a child contact [children's services](#).

If you are concerned about a vulnerable adult contact [the local authority](#).

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