

# Cultural Awareness in Safeguarding

## Introduction

This comprehensive course will help you to understand the safeguarding issues around 'honour-based' violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and abuse related to beliefs in witchcraft. It also provides important advice and guidance for professionals.



## Audience

The course aims to help anyone who works with children or has regular contact with children to recognise and respond to situations where abuse linked to 'honour-based' violence and forced marriage; female genital mutilation; and beliefs in 'witchcraft' or 'spirit possession' has occurred or may occur.

For example, those who work in schools, healthcare, social care, faith organisations, community groups or the police.

## Objectives

In the **'Honour-based' crime and Forced Marriage** course you will:

- Understand what is meant by 'honour'
- Understand what it means to communities
- Understand where it comes from
- Know how big the problem is
- Know what is forced marriage, 'honour-based' violence and 'honour' killings
- Know how big a problem it is in the UK
- Know who is most at risk
- Understand what the family's motives are
- Know what the aggravating factors are
- Understand what the impact on the victim is
- Learn about the barriers to change
- Know the law in relation to 'honour-based' crimes
- Learn about the indicators
- Know when victims are most at risk

In the **Female Genital Mutilation** course you will:

- Know what FGM is and when and where it is performed
- Know the facts and figures
- Understand the laws that help to protect women and girls from FGM
- Understand the socio-cultural context, including the perception of FGM as a religious obligation
- Know what the impact of FGM is
- Understand the attitudes towards FGM
- Know how to identify an FGM victim or potential victim
- Know how to help prevent and ultimately eliminate the practice
- Know the principles to follow when FGM is suspected or has been performed
- Know the roles of different professionals

## Modules

This course contains the following modules:

### Module name

- Understanding the community
- What are forced marriage and honour-based violence?
- The victims and perpetrators
- Barriers to change
- Challenges for the professional
- The hard facts
- The beliefs behind FGM
- The impact of FGM
- Challenges for the professional
- The belief and the abuse
- Risk factors
- Challenges for the professional

## Content

Here are a few topics covered in the five **Honour-based' Violence and Forced Marriage** modules:

Banaz Mahmood | Not a minor crime | Sexual 'honour' | What is 'honour'? | Losing 'honour'? | Immoral acts? | The origins of 'honour' | Where do ideas of 'honour' come from? | So what's the problem? | Current attitudes | Self-perpetuating phenomenon | The right to marry | What is forced marriage? | Reported honour killings | Is forced marriage illegal? | Is forced marriage a gender issue? | Forced marriage and arranged marriage | Deja's story | What is 'honour-crime'? | 'Honour-based' violence and domestic abuse | Different motivations | Are things getting better? | A real and serious problem | The victim's mindset | The victims | Who is most at risk? | What is a parent's motivation? | Religion | Familial motives for forced marriage | Aggravating factors | Abuses related to forced marriage | Abuses after forced marriage | Rape | Abandonment | The victim's predicament | The psychological impact on the victim | The future for victims and their children | The future for the victim's children | Why don't they run away? | After running away | Persistent attitudes | Communities blocking change | Deterrents to women fleeing abuse | Escape deterrents | Difficulty getting religious divorces | Government failures | What is the law? | The law and forced marriage | New legislation and penalties | What should

In the **Abuse Related to a Belief in Witchcraft** course you will:

- Know what witchcraft is and the language used by perpetrators to refer to it
- Know what the beliefs are and how widespread they are in the UK
- Know which communities or groups may believe in witchcraft
- Know what kind of abuses can occur in relation to witchcraft
- Learn about who the perpetrators might be
- Understand what the future holds for a victim
- Learn how to help prevent the next Victoria Climbié
- Learn about the common features and warning signs of witchcraft abuse
- Learn about the indicators of witchcraft abuse
- Learn about the issues around migration
- Learn about the common features about the abuser
- Know what the key policies and legislation are in relation to abuse linked to witchcraft
- Know the importance of understanding the limitations of your role
- Understand the importance of addressing any misguided attitudes that you may have
- Understand the importance of community led approaches to preventing witchcraft abuse
- Learn what to do if you suspect a child is at risk of witchcraft abuse or is experiencing abu

professionals look out for? | Less common warning signs | The 'one chance' rule | Case study: Medya at school | Case study: Medya and Social services | Case study: on reflection

Here are a few topics covered in the four **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** modules:

What happens? | UK numbers | What is FGM? | The procedure | What happens to victims? | FGM across the globe | FGM in the UK | Its origins | What laws are there to protect women? | Voices from the FGM community | The beliefs behind FGM | The reasons | Controlling women | FGM and religion | Hygiene, femininity and aesthetics | Social pressures and expectations | Cultural change in the UK | Clerics and communities reject FGM | A personal story | Range of complications | Severe to fatal consequences | Short and long term consequences | Sex, pregnancy and childbirth | Impact on the individual | Psychological impact | The UK's approach to FGM | Your response to FGM | Key message for professionals | The four Ps | Key message for professionals | Critical roles | At school: Indicators of risk | At school: indicators FGM has taken place | Gathering information in a health care setting | What should I say? | How should I respond? | Pregnancy and childbirth | Counselling | The role of the Police | The role of Social Care

Here are a few topics covered in the three **Abuse Related to a Belief in Witchcraft** modules:

Killed for being 'possessed' | Witchcraft and spirit possession | Witchcraft terms | Understanding the concepts | Beliefs in witchcraft | How the victim is perceived | Who believes n witchcraft? | Does witchcraft exist in Africa? | The need to believe | Religious culture | When beliefs become abuse | Forms of abuse | Who are the perpetrators? | Role of places of worship | The future, after intervention | Help prevent the next Victoria Climbié | Victoria's basic profile | Is gender an indicator? | Is age an indicator? | Is abuse mainly found in London? | Characteristics, behaviours or disabilities | Common features about the family | Change for the worse in a family's situation | Struggling to adapt to migration | First signs | Victoria's carers | "Critical faculties suspended" | Common features about the type of abuse | The language and methods of the perpetrators | Physical, emotional or psychological, neglect and sexual abuse | The cause | Common features about the abuser | Important learning point | Common features about ease of movement | Summary of warning signs | Key policy and legislation | Your responsibility | Reflect on your attitudes | Who is on the front line? | Who should you contact? | What should happen? | Achieving Best Evidence | Holistic assessments | Prevention | The role of non-governmental organisations