

Brent Harmful Practice Case Studies

Case Study 1 - Female Genital Mutilation

FORWARD was contacted by social services from the London Borough of Brent regarding a case involving several children believed to be at risk of FGM. FORWARD provided support, advice and guidance for the family and local social services. One-to-one support sessions and emotional support were delivered to the mother who was also provided with information about FGM in a culturally sensitive way, information about the law. As a woman who had undergone FGM, she was also signposted to FGM specialist services for medical care and counselling.

FORWARD delivered group sessions with for the young girls, providing them with FGM information in an age appropriate format. The girls were also provided with emotional support and advice to guide them through the challenging situation. The young girls were provided with information about services and options for where to go if they or their peers felt at risk.

- FORWARD also worked with other family members including the father to ensure that children were supported and safeguarded.
- FORWARD provided social services with a report as well advice on best practice and cultural sensitivity.
- FORWARD believes that the HP Strand will be able to ensure that more women and young women are supported and protected

Case Study 2 - Forced Marriage Case Study

A young Asian young woman was referred to the AWRC by her teacher at college. The young woman was being forced to marry one of her cousins in Pakistan, by her parents. They had found out that she had a boyfriend from a different cultural background, which they did not approve of. As a result they beat her and attempted to strangle her. The parents had further threatened to break her legs, arms and kill her if she did not do what they said. The parents had accused her for becoming too “westernised” by developing relationships before marriage, deviating from her culture and for bringing shame on the family. The young woman feared for her safety and did not want to return home.

The AWRC provided the following support:

- Risk assessment /Safety planning advice.
- MARAC referral
- IDVA referral
- Reported the threat of honour based violence to the police (worker accompanied her).
- Reported violence to the GP – (worker accompanied her).
- Provided emotional support
- Made referral to a refuge, provided her with taxi fare to travel.
- Provided follow up support

Case Study 3 – Honour Based Violence Case Study

A young Asian Women started dating a young Asian man who seemed like a nice man at first. After a while it became clear that the relationship was not working and she decided she wanted to end it. The young man was aware all along that our relationship was a secret, and due to his controlling behaviour, began to use this against her. He threatened to tell her family about their relationship, which was absolutely, terrified her. The thought of what her parents would do if they found out petrified her. Honour was embedded in her family

“I’ve never known any different. Having a relationship with a man would bring dishonour to the family. It’s not just my mother and father that I had to worry about.”

The young women continued to see the young man for fear of her finding out – this was effectively against her will, again she tried to end the relationship and the threats continued.

“I thought about them all the time. The anxiety was always there, it’s not a nice feeling to have. I kept on blaming myself for getting into the position I found myself in. Eventually I decided enough was enough, I could not go on living my life in this way.”

The young women lived with the threats for a year before she contacted the AWRC,

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- Reported the threat of honour based violence to the police (worker accompanied her).
- Provided emotional support
- Provided follow up support