

GBV AoR HELPDESK

Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

Annotated Bibliography: Review of Technical Resources on Honor-Based Abuse in the Middle East and North Africa Region



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Introduction

The Iranian and Kurdish Women’s Rights Organization (IKWRO) defines honor-based abuse (HBA) as violence used to enforce patriarchal social norms related to honor; to punish or prevent behavior perceived to be dishonorable or shameful; to send messages to the community about acceptable norms of behavior; and to silence any potential challenges to these norms.¹ HBA is mainly targeted against women and girls, and perpetrators range from family members and/or partners or ex-partners to the wider community. It includes physical abuse, sexual violence, abduction, forced marriage, imprisonment, and murder.²

This annotated bibliography provides an overview of relevant literature and resources on HBA within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and among communities from MENA living in the diaspora. Intended to support the development of training materials for first-line responders, especially police officers who may engage with survivors of HBA in MENA, the bibliography focuses primarily on training tools and programmatic guidance on responding to cases of HBA.

The references have been drawn from an online desk review. Due to the limited regional and global resources that specifically address survivor response to HBA, the review includes literature on broader gender-based violence (GBV) interventions that may have relevance, such as training tools and other guidance for working with survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). The review has prioritized training tools and guidance from the MENA region, but also includes resources from programs serving the MENA diaspora.

The bibliography begins with a list of articles covering the nature and scope of HBA in the MENA region and diaspora. It then provides a summary of training tools and other resources on GBV response services that may be relevant in working with HBA survivors, covering risk identification and assessment and GBV case management. The bibliography also includes a section on police response and access to justice for HBA. It concludes with a brief list of resources addressing HBA prevention and advocacy in the MENA region and diaspora.

Box 1: Examples of Honor-Based Abuse in the MENA Region

A traditionally conservative region where concepts of strict patriarchal social order are widespread, HBA exists across countries in MENA. In one example from 2020, a young Jordanian woman named Ahlam was killed by her

¹ For more information on honor crimes, see <https://ikwro.org.uk/honour-based-violence/>

² <https://www.llradultsafeguarding.co.uk/honour-based-abuse/#1> Definition of Honour Based Abuse

father in the street after she was returned to her family by the family protection unit.³ In another example, Naira Ashraf was murdered in 2022 in broad daylight outside Mansoura University, located northwest of the Egyptian capital of Cairo. She was killed by her male colleague after she repeatedly rejected his marriage proposal.⁴ In another high-profile example from 2023, Tiba Al-Ali, a young YouTube star who had gone to live alone in Turkey with her fiancé, was killed by her father while she was traveling to Iraq to visit her family.⁵ In the early months of 2024, Syrian activists documented that 38 women and girls were killed by their fathers, brothers, sons and male relatives in inhumane ways such as stabbing, torture, immolation, and strangulation.⁶

These crimes sparked calls for reform in their respective countries. Some legal protections as well as programming to address HBA and other forms of GBV have been introduced in many countries in MENA. However, they are generally undermined by weak implementation and enforcement.⁷ Honor killings continue to be recorded across the MENA region, but authorities often fail to take action to prosecute perpetrators or address the underlying discriminatory laws and gender norms which allow such violence to thrive.⁸

Nature and Scope of Honor-based Abuse in the MENA Region and Diaspora

The references cited in this section focus on the nature and scope of HBA in the MENA region, as well as global data that is relevant to MENA. The citations are organized in three sections; the first is specifically about MENA, the second covers global data, and third focuses on technology-facilitated GBV (TFGBV) and its links to HBA in MENA region. References are presented in chronological order by date of publication, with most recent publications first. Given the limited data on honor crimes in MENA, several older references are included in the review where they provide useful insights to HBA in specific settings in MENA.

MENA Region Evidence and Data

Solidarity is Global Institute-Jordan (2024). A Slight Decrease in Family-Related Homicides in the First Half of 2024 Compared to the First Half of 2023.

<https://www.sigi-jordan.org/article/6390>

This article published by Solidarity is Global Institute-Jordan (SIGI-Jo) summarizes research from SIGI-Jo on family-related homicides in Jordan in 2024 and 2023. Data indicate these types of homicides decreased in the first half of 2024 compared to the first half of 2023. Notably, however, the crimes that occurred in 2024 were more violent. All crimes were perpetrated by a husband, father or brother, representing domestic or IPV perpetrated against women.

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (2024). Country Policy and Information Note: Iraq Blood Feuds, Honour Crimes and Tribal Violence.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/iraq-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-iraq-blood-feuds-honour-crimes-and-tribal-violence-iraq-july-2024-accessible>

This guidance provides information on honor crimes to support the assessment of asylum claims from Iraqis in the United Kingdom. The guidance underscores that motives for honor crimes against Iraqi women include pre-marital

³ Christou, W. (2023). "[Killing of women and children by family members increase by 94% in Jordan for 2022: report](#)" *The New Arab*, 10 January 2023.

⁴ Mansour, T. (2022). "[Naira Ashraf's murder must be the last: Egyptian women's rights activist](#)" *The New Arab*, 23 June 2022.

⁵ O'Reilly, G. (2023). "[The Iraqi YouTube star killed by her father](#)" *British Broadcasting Corporation*, 6 September 2023.

⁶ Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (2024). [Honour killings: 38 women and girls killed since early 2024 in all zones of influence across Syria.](#)

⁷ Amnesty International (2021). [MENA: Gender-based violence continues to devastate lives of women across region.](#)

⁸ Gender in Geopolitics Institute (2023). [The Feminist Struggle to Criminalize Honour Killings in the Middle East.](#)

relationships with members of the opposite sex; refusal to marry a man chosen by the family; loss of virginity outside of marriage (including being a victim of rape); adultery; seeking a divorce; and shameful dress or behavior, including on social media. Women are usually unable to seek protection and assistance from local Iraqi police and security agents because these agents are unwilling to get involved with what they see as a family matter. As such, protection is unlikely to be available for victims or potential victims of honor crimes.

Many tribes seek to resolve their disputes through a *'sulha'*, a negotiation process where financial compensation is offered to the aggrieved family. In some cases (despite being banned by law), a tribe might resolve a dispute by giving one or several girls or women to another tribe for marriage. When females are given as compensation for injury or death they lose their rights--even the right to divorce or separate from their husband--and risk being exposed to further abuse.

The guidance emphasizes that Iraqi women and girls continue to be marginalized by conservative social, religious and tribal norms, and suffer high rates of GBV, including honor killings. Laws on marriage and divorce continue to favor men over women. No laws exist for the prevention and prosecution of IPV. Husbands are allowed to punish their wives and children. Rapists can avoid prosecution if they marry their victims, and the law allows reduced sentences for those who commit crimes of honor.

AlQahtani S.M., Almutairi D.S., BinAqeel E.A., Almutairi R.Aa., Al-Qahtani R.Dd., Menezes R.G. (2023). Honor Killings in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: A Narrative Review. Healthcare (Basel). 2023 Jan; 11(1): 74.10.3390/healthcare11010074.

<https://doi.org/10.3390%2Fhealthcare11010074>

In this narrative review, the authors investigate the epidemiology of honor killing in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. They find that HBA is rarely reported to authorities due to a culture of silence. Relatives and other members in the community will often cover it up. Still, some information of cases surfaces on social media platforms.

The social, cultural, and legal aspects of honor killing are discussed. The report suggests that a man's honor is an extension of that of his female relatives and, as such, the male relative's responsibility is to guard female relatives' honor. This often involves the father ensuring the virginity of unwed daughters. If the father passes away, male siblings or cousins take on this role of ensuring her chastity until a family-approved marriage.

Notably, low socio-economic status is often correlated with the perpetration of honor-based crimes, whereas academic education is a protective factor. A history of violence against women in the families of the victim and the perpetrator and their surrounding community is another contributing factor to HBA. Social norms are also highly significant: families may be pressured by neighbors and relatives to view a female's behavior as shameful and to punish her to restore or maintain the family's status within society.

Families of victims of honor-based killings are often unable to carry out the traditional community and mourning rituals because of community judgment, making the grieving process complicated. Even though honor killing is legally prohibited and associated with significant punishments for convicted perpetrators in most countries in MENA, in practice perpetrators tend to receive lesser punishment if their motivation is linked to preservation of honor.

Gibbs A., Said N., Corboz J., Jewkes R. (2019). Factors Associated with 'Honour Killing' in Afghanistan and the occupied Palestinian Territories: Two Cross-Sectional Studies. PLoS One.14(8): e0219125. 10.1371/journal.pone.0219125.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6687286/>

These studies highlight that honor killings are not rare or isolated incidents. In the occupied Palestine Territories (oPT), 1 in 13 women surveyed in the West Bank and Gaza lived in a family where there had been an honor killing. In Afghanistan, 1 in 16 women interviewed from Nangarhar Province, and 1 in 100 from Kabul Province, reported an honor killing in their family. The analysis indicates a strong association between honor killing and other household violence, suggesting a clustering of violent and harmful practices within families. The perpetrators are various family members (including mothers-in-law), reflecting and reinforcing the family's overall acceptability of violence, including IPV.

HBA is associated with other forms of GBV, and the killing of women is located within, and driven by, similar practices of control of women's sexuality and enforcement of male power. Family poverty also appears to be associated with honor crimes, but the links are not entirely clear. In Afghanistan, women who report needing to borrow money because of poverty are more likely to also report honor killing in their family. In oPT, however, there is no association between women who are financially dependent and honor killing because women who report requesting money from family members are poorer and less educated—thus often less likely to challenge patriarchal social norms. Even so, family members who give money to females who request it are often likely to see the responsibility (and the woman) as burdensome, rather than a welcome opportunity to reinforce positive family ties. More qualitative research is needed to explore associations between poverty, HBA, and other forms of GBV. The authors argue the need for further research on the associations identified in these preliminary studies, as well as more research generally on HBA to inform efforts to prevent and eradicate it. The authors further stress that prevention of honor killings needs to be an explicit development goal, achieved through changing patriarchal gender norms, reducing poverty and removing impunity for perpetrators.

Khan, R. (2018). Attitudes Towards 'Honor' Violence and Killings in Collectivist Cultures: Gender Differences in Middle Eastern, North African, South Asian (MENASA) and Turkish Populations. International Handbook in Aggression: Current Issues and Perspectives.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316967953_Attributes_towards_%27honor%27_violence_and_killings_in_collectivist_cultures_Gender_differences_in_Middle_Eastern_North_African_South_Asian_MENASA_and_Turkish_populations

This paper reviews recent research on gender differences in attitudes towards honor violence in MENA. Evidence suggests females are less approving of violence compared to their male counterparts; however, a notable proportion of females endorse the abuse and killing of women in the name of honor. The desk review demonstrates that attitudes of both males and females may play a part in propagation of HBA in families and communities in MENA. The researcher recommends that interventions should be culturally aware, with the aim to educate both male and female family members on HBA.

The Danish Immigration Service and LandInfo (2018). Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI): Women and Men in Honour-Related Conflicts.

<https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5beacadd4.pdf>

The report focuses on the issue of HBA in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) to support assessment of asylum cases in Denmark. Evidence gathered for the report indicates incidents of HBA increased in KRI due to the economic crisis and conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). However, HBA was found to be underreported due to fears of stigma and of further violence from family members and society.

HBA is common among Arabs, Turkmen and Yazidi families in Kurdistan. The report shows honor crimes are more frequent in small towns and rural areas. Extramarital relationships are seen as unacceptable in KRI and women who have pre-marital sexual relations or who get married without the approval of their family are at risk of being killed. While legislation exists prohibiting violence against women, there are many barriers to its implementation, including patriarchal gender norms and attitudes of authorities, lack of investigation in criminal cases, and corruption.

There are women's shelters in big cities in Kurdistan, which women can only access by court order. They also need a court order to leave, but in the absence of resources, the survivor often returns to her natal family. In some cases, these family members provide temporary protection, but in others the family members might kill her, or pressure her to commit suicide.

Self-immolation among women in Kurdistan is a significant problem, triggered by mental health issues. In some instances, immolation may be perpetrated by family and made to appear as suicide. The issue is widespread enough that a plastic surgery hospital with 80 beds has been established to treat survivors. In cases where a woman attempts suicide but does not die, she will likely be in a worse situation because Islam forbids suicide, and suicide attempts therefore imply shame on the family.

Anderson, K. (2022). Research Query: Learning Brief on Femicide in Emergencies. GBV AoR Helpdesk.

<https://gbvaor.net/sites/default/files/2022-10/Femicide%20in%20Emergencies%20Final.pdf>

This report provides an overview of femicide and actions to be taken by GBV actors working in humanitarian emergencies to address it. The report addresses how femicide is defined and conceptualized, and provides an overview of different forms of femicide, including HBA. It stresses that GBV actors in humanitarian settings should assume that femicide is a risk, even in the absence of clear data on femicide trends. The report offers practical programmatic recommendations and examples for femicide prevention, response and advocacy, underscoring the importance for GBV actors of ensuring life-saving interventions for IPV, because most femicides are perpetrated by intimate partners.

UN Women and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023). Gender-related Killings of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide): Global Estimates of Female Intimate Partner/Family-Related Homicides in 2022.

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/gender-related-killings-of-women-and-girls-femicide-feminicide-global-estimates-2022-en.pdf>

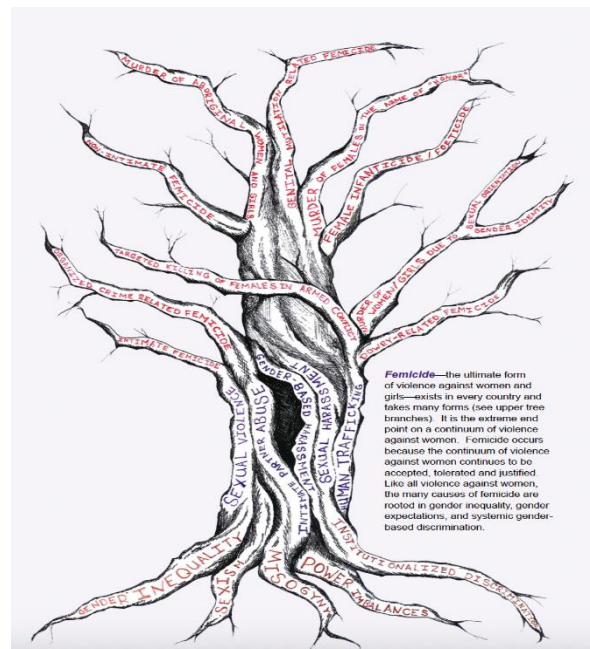
In 2022, approximately 48,800 women and girls were killed globally by their intimate partners or other family members, including fathers, mothers, uncles, and brothers. This means that around 55 percent of the estimated total of 88,900 female homicide victims recorded in 2022 were killed by someone in their own family. Africa and Asia (including MENA) recorded the largest number of female intimate partner or family-related killings in 2022: 20,000 and 18,400 respectively.

This report shares several preventive practices and initiatives adopted by different countries, including criminalization of femicide (also referred to as feminicide) as specific offences in some countries, and the implementation of improved risk assessments and protection measures. Several countries have set up femicide observatories or ‘femicide watch’ systems to inform the design of relevant prevention and response strategies. Some countries have also established multi-sectoral committees that conduct regular in-depth reviews of deaths or homicides related to domestic violence, often with the involvement and participation of families, with the aim of improving institutional responses and preventing future killings. However, the report finds that primary prevention addressing social norms at the individual, community and institutional levels is generally limited and requires additional investments.

Learning Network (2015) Femicide. Issue 14.

https://gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/issuebased_newsletters/issue-14/14-infograph-Femicide_Newsletter_Online.pdf

Although an older resource, this newsletter remains topical because it clearly underscores the link between female homicide and gender discrimination. It provides an illustration of a tree that identifies root causes of femicide, which is useful for training purposes. Like all forms of GBV, femicide (including HBA) is rooted in gender inequality and gender power imbalances. The newsletter highlights key actions to end femicide: data and documentation, awareness raising, prevention programming, and legislative and policy reform.



Chesler, P. (2010). Worldwide Trends in Honor Killings. Middle East Quarterly, 17(2), 3–11.

<https://www.meforum.org/middle-east-quarterly/worldwide-trends-in-honor-killings>

This study analyzes 172 incidents and 230 honor killing victims. Although an older resource, the study is interesting because it indicates that reports of honor killings in MENA accelerated significantly in the 20-year period between 1989 and 2009. The authors hypothesize this increase may reflect an actual increase in HBA due to rising extremism, but also more publicity about HBA cases due to increased prosecution as well as reporting of these incidents on social media.

The study tries to show the difference between intimate partner violence and HBA by highlighting the involvement of multiple perpetrators, a characteristic which distinguishes them considerably from Western domestic femicide. The average age of victims of honor killing in the period studied was seventeen.

The study stresses the need for multiple sectors to address HBA for the prevention and prosecution efforts of HBA. In addition, shelters for women and girls staffed with multilingual persons trained in HBA are critical to supporting the safety and recovery of survivors and those at risk. When staff are not trained in HBA, they may not recognize high-risk issues; for example, the study found that several girls were lured back home by their mothers, whom the staff felt could be trusted, and then were killed.

The study recommends that perpetrators, accomplices and enablers must all be prosecuted to address impunity. The study highlights several western judicial systems and governments that had begun (at the time of the research) to address the problem.

Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV)⁹ and HBA in the MENA Region

In the MENA region, digital technologies are being used to perpetrate sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation of women and girls. Boys and men are creating or obtaining intimate photos of girls and women and sharing or threatening to share them on social media and with survivors' families. TFGBV is often perpetrated to shame and blackmail women and girls. In conservative contexts, it is a contributor to HBA, including honor killings.

ACAPS Middle East Hub (2024). Yemen: Shedding Light on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence.

https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20240909_ACAPS_Middle_East_Hub_technology-facilitated_gender-based_violence_01.pdf

This qualitative research explores TFGBV in Yemen. The researchers found that TFGBV in Yemen reinforces existing unequal gender dynamics shaped by cultural and social customs. Potential harmful effects for women and girls who are targeted include increased risk of mental health issues, forced social isolation, and significant restrictions on access to online spaces. In some instances, survivors of TFGBV also face threats of forced marriage or honor killings.

Female Yemeni public figures and activists are at higher risk of TFGBV, which may involve defamation, blackmail, and hacking aimed to discourage women's participation in public affairs. The absence of specific cyber laws in Yemen, as well as strict and patriarchal gender norms, continuing conflict, and ineffective law enforcement mechanisms leave many women and girls with little recourse to justice or protection when experiencing TFGBV.

Rutgers, Generation G, Equimundo, Sonke Gender Justice and ABAAD (2024). Decoding Technology Facilitated Gender-Based Violence: Reality Check from Seven Countries.

<https://www.abaadmena.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Generation-G-report-Decoding-TFGBV-2024.pdf?x58318>

This report summarizes a multi-country study on the prevalence, forms, and impacts of TFGBV on women and girls in Jordan, Lebanon, Indonesia, Morocco, Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa. The study highlights the lack of understanding and recognition of TFGBV as a form of GBV and the devastating consequences - including HBA. The

⁹ For more information on TFGBV, see <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/brochure-what-technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence#:~:text=Technology%2Dfacilitated%20gender%2Dbased%20violence%2C%20or%20TFGBV%2C%20is,the%20basis%20of%20their%20gender> .

study also finds reporting mechanisms for TFGBV have limited effectiveness, and reporting is often perceived by survivors as unhelpful and/or unsafe.

The report recommends strengthening prevention and response services and accountability mechanisms. The report also highlights the need for legislative reform and more survivor-centred law enforcement.

Lannazzone, S., Clough, L., Griffon, L., and EuroMed Rights (2021). Spaces of Violence and Resistance: Women’s Rights in The Digital World: The Scenario in the MENA Region.

<https://euromedrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Online-gender-violence-in-MENA-region.pdf>

This report outlines a study on TFGBV undertaken in eight countries in the MENA region, including Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia. TFGBV is a growing phenomenon in the region. Young educated women and girls, who typically have better access to the digital world than older and/or less educated women and girls, seem to be more exposed to TFGBV, particularly on social media. The study highlights that TFGBV can escalate into physical violence and HBA.

Most women do not report TFGBV and, if they do, there is limited follow-up and support, or they are not taken seriously and even blamed for provoking the violence. The report recommends the adoption of a regional framework containing a governance and regulation policy for social media platforms to implement cyber safety rules to protect privacy and prevent cyber violence and hate speech online against women and girls. The report calls for further research in the region to collect more data on the scope and nature of TFGBV in the region, its impacts on women’s rights and their lives, as well as the profiles of survivors and perpetrators. Finally, the report argues for the need to expand training programs for women and girls on digital literacy and knowledge of procedures to report incidents and seek assistance on social media platforms.

BBC Arabic Video Series on: Sex, Honour, and Blackmail in an Online World (2016)

<http://www.bbc.com/arabic>

BBC Arabic examines the subject of shame and honor with a series of stories, animations and short documentary videos. A BBC investigation found that thousands of young women in conservative societies across North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia are being shamed or blackmailed with private and sometimes sexually explicit images. There are stories from [Tunisia](#), [Jordan](#), [Egypt](#) and [Morocco](#).

Training Tools and Other Guidance on GBV Response Services Relevant to HBA

This section covers specific training tools and other guidance available online that relates to addressing the needs of survivors of HBA. Because there are very few tools specific to HBA, and because HBA is most often perpetrated in the context of intimate partnerships, the review includes tools and guidance for addressing IPV.

Risk Identification and Assessment

Safelives (2023). Honor-Based Abuse and Forced Marriage Cases at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in Scotland: Current and Best Practice Response.

https://safelives.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Honour-based_abuse_Marac_guidance.pdf

The multi-agency risk assessment conference (referred to as MARAC) is a local meeting where representatives from statutory and non-statutory agencies meet to discuss individuals at high risk of serious harm or murder because of domestic abuse. Multi-agency approaches like MARAC have been highlighted as effective in responding to cases involving HBA. In fact, due to the complex and urgent nature of risk, a coordinated multi-agency action plan may be particularly important in cases that involve HBA or threats of forced marriage. The action plans consider unique aspects of each victim’s individual situation and consider both short-term immediate safety needs and longer-term support for recovery and re-establishing independence.

This guidance details good practices in utilizing MARAC when responding to cases involving HBA. It stresses the importance of involvement of specialists from the start, to inform risk assessments and to feed into immediate

safety planning, and the role all agencies play in keeping victims safe.

Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, the Law Foundation of Ontario, and the United Way (2020). Intimate Partner Violence Risk Identification and Assessment Tool User Guide.

<https://www.schliferclinic.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/IPV-RIA-User-Guide-Final.pdf>

This risk assessment tool is targeted to family law practitioners to improve their ability to assist survivors of IPV who are involved in family court proceedings in Ontario, Canada. While not all aspects of this user guide are relevant to working with HBA survivors in MENA, there is useful background information on the Canadian legal family law system, and there is extensive information about identifying risk factors for IPV (including HBA). The tool considers the complex needs of survivors. It takes into consideration physical, emotional, mental, social/cultural, racial, financial, legal, and spiritual abuse and the multiple sources of oppression and systemic barriers to which women are often subjected.

SafeLives (2019) DASH RISK Checklist: Quick Start Guidance.

<https://safelives.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Dash-risk-checklist-quick-start-guidance.pdf>

<https://safelives.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Arabic-Dash-with-guidance.pdf> (Arabic)

The Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honor Based Abuse (DASH) is a risk identification assessment and management model. DASH is used by case workers and frontline professionals to identify and assess risks when a potential victim discloses IPV, HBA or stalking. The risk checklist is based on extensive research about IPV. The aim of the tool is to enable frontline professionals to identify high risk cases and better determine referrals needs.

GBV Case Management

Northfolk County Council (n.d.). Safety Planning: Honor Based Violence, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation Safety Planning Tool.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/43727/Honour-based-abuse-information-for-professionals>

This safety planning tool developed in the UK for HBA cases offers assessment question prompts to assist providers to determine the nature and extent of abuse a survivor may be experiencing, and then goes on to provide a list of clear and practical steps that can be taken by survivors of HBA when they are considering leaving a dangerous situation. The purpose of the tool is to support the survivor to regain some control and to assist the survivor to strategically consider some key issues related to escaping violence.

GBV AoR Helpdesk (2021). Learning Brief 2: Strategies and Action for Preventing and Responding to Technology Facilitated Gender-Based Violence.

<https://www.sddirect.org.uk/resource/learning-brief-2-strategies-and-action-preventing-and-responding-technology-facilitated>

<https://www.sddirect.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/GBV%20AoR%20HD%202022%20-%20TFGBV%20LB%20%232%20Strategies%20for%20addressing%20TFGBV%20Arabic.pdf> (Arabic)

This learning brief outlines strategies used in different parts of the world to prevent and respond to technology facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), highlighting some key examples and resources. Strategies adopted by GBV actors to address TFGBV fall into five main categories: supporting and empowering survivors; capacity-building; community awareness and education; legislative measures; and collective advocacy and action. GBV services in different contexts are integrating specific responses to TFGBV into their service delivery to ensure survivors can access support and assistance. GBV caseworkers and referral networks are scaling up their capacity to respond to the psychological, emotional and social impacts TFGBV, and the associated risks and harms, including HBA.

International Medical Corps (2021). Traditions and Opportunities - A Toolkit for GBV Programs to Engage Community Leaders in Humanitarian Settings.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/traditions-and-opportunities-toolkit-gbv-programs-engage-community-leaders-humanitarian-settings-enar> (English and Arabic)

This Toolkit provides GBV practitioners with guidance, tools, and resources to safely and effectively engage community leaders to advance GBV prevention and response in humanitarian settings. The toolkit is mindful not to reinforce leadership structures that do not center women and girls. While not specific to HBA, this tool may be effective in engaging community leaders in speaking about challenging and entrenched gender norms that may perpetuate GBV, including HBA.

GBV program teams can adapt the tools and apply them to engage community leaders through their existing or planned GBV prevention and response programs. The Toolkit is divided into two sections: Guidance, Tools and Resources focusing on GBV Response, GBV Risk Mitigation, Transformative Change, and Supporting Women Leaders. The second section, a Training Manual for Staff and Community Leaders, includes curricula for GBV program teams to build their own knowledge and skills for community leader engagement, as well as curricula for GBV teams to deliver trainings on GBV prevention and response to groups of community leaders. The tool also provides guidance to GBV caseworkers to promote safe and effective advocacy on behalf of a survivor in GBV justice responses.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, ABAAD, WAVE and UNFPA (2019). Shelters for Women Survivors of Violence: Availability and Accessibility in the Arab Region.

<https://www.abaadmena.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/ebook.1586872203.pdf?x58318>

This report provides a snapshot of shelters in the Arab region. It adds to the growing evidence that shelters are helpful in providing a safe haven for women survivors of violence (including HBA), and are an integral part of a comprehensive GBV response. The study highlights the lack of supportive legal frameworks and national policies on GBV, which pose a serious challenge for establishing and running shelters.

The report recommends that governments expand shelter services to ensure wider geographical coverage, including to remote areas, by funding women's organizations to take on this work. The report further argues that shelters must be available for short, medium and long-term periods to respond to survivors' changing circumstances and to ensure no woman is turned away when seeking refuge. Shelter services (and referrals) must be multifunctional and include rehabilitation and reintegration services that put the survivor at the center of decision-making process. Legal laws that serve as barriers to access including guardianship and custody of children should be re-examined.

International Rescue Committee (2018). GBV Case Management Outcome Monitoring Toolkit.

<https://gbvresponders.org/response/case-management/#:~:text=The%20GBV%20CASE%20MANAGEMENT%20OUTCOME,well%2Dbeing%20and%20felt%20stigma.>

https://gbvresponders.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/GBV-Case-Management-Outcome-Monitoring-Toolkit_Arabic.pdf (Arabic)

This toolkit supports organizations involved in the provision of GBV response services to measure the impact of GBV case management on women and older adolescent girls' psychosocial well-being and felt stigma. The toolkit was developed using validated scales measuring changes related to psychosocial wellbeing and stigma experienced by women survivors of GBV in the Democratic Republic of Congo. International Rescue Committee (IRC) adapted the toolkit for use with women and adolescent girls receiving GBV case management support from Syrian refugees in Jordan and Somali refugees in Kenya. The toolkit includes a Psychosocial Functionality Scale which is a questionnaire that measures ability to carry out important daily tasks. In addition, there is a Felt Stigma Scale that measures perceived and internalized experiences of stigma. These monitoring tools can be useful in working with survivors of HBA.

GBVIMS Steering Committee (2017). Interagency Gender-based Violence Case Management Guidelines.

https://gbvresponders.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Interagency-GBV-Case-Management-Guidelines_Final_2017_Low-Res.pdf

GBV case management is a structured method for providing help to a survivor. It involves one organization, usually a psychosocial support or social services actor, taking responsibility for making sure that survivors are informed of all the options available to them and that issues and problems facing a survivor and her/his family are identified and followed up in a coordinated way, and providing the survivor with emotional support throughout the process. Case management has also become the primary entry point for survivors to receive crisis and longer-term psychosocial support, given the lack of more established health and social support service providers in humanitarian settings.

This resource aims to set standards for quality, compassionate care for GBV survivors in humanitarian settings, with particular focus on the provision of case management services. It provides GBV service providers in humanitarian settings with the information and guidance they need to establish and provide quality case management services to GBV survivors. The resource covers core concepts, steps in case management and monitoring quality of care for different types of groups. It includes associated [training materials](#) and other support tools.

Police and Access to Justice

This section includes training and other learning materials relevant to police and justice actors who may interact with and support survivors of HBA. Although efforts were made to trace materials from MENA, the majority of these resources are from Europe. Nevertheless, the Europe resources have been selected based on their potential applicability to the police sector in MENA.

European Training Platform on Domestic Violence (2024). Training Module for the Police.

<https://training.improдова.eu/en/training-modules-for-the-police/>

This online training platform for police in the European Union is designed to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of domestic violence and the skills needed to effectively address the issue. A series of nine online modules cover indicators of domestic violence; how to communicate sensitively with victims; and how to conduct police investigations for legal proceedings. Participants will be introduced risk assessment and safety planning, international legal frameworks, inter-organizational cooperation, the impact of stereotypes and unconscious bias and self-care in cases of domestic violence. While not all this material may be relevant to police working in MENA, it is a good reference point for key skills-building areas for police.

Larsson, A.L, Olsson, H., and Strand, S. (2024). Challenges and Opportunities in Collaborative Approaches to Responding to Intimate Partner Violence: Insights from Social Workers and Police in Sweden.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02650533.2024.2327038#d1e167>

This article discusses a qualitative study on opportunities and challenges of collaboration between social workers and police officers when dealing with cases of IPV and stalking in Sweden. The study highlighted that for Swedish police and social services to be able to combat IPV they must master two key skills: risk assessment and risk management. While risk assessment can be defined as a process of determining risk, risk management encompasses the actions and measures identified and taken after the assessment of risk. Risk management insists on protective actions and support that needs to be taken to minimize the assessed risk.

Social services and the police in Sweden use different risk assessment methods and a variety of tools (e.g. Freda and B-SAFER methods). The Freda method is often used by social services and the B-SAFER is predominantly used by police. In Sweden, despite efforts from both police and social services, there is a lack of effective risk management. The study illustrates the importance of clear roles and responsibilities along with a shared commitment for successful collaboration between social services and police. Proximity between professionals can lead to more efficient collaboration, where individuals contribute with their unique skills and knowledge. Clear and defined structures for meetings and forums with clients, police and social workers was recognized as crucial for successful collaboration and to meet the needs of survivors.

College of Policing (2023). Honour-Based Abuse: Advice for First Responders.

<https://assets.college.police.uk/s3fs-public/2023-03/Honour-based-abuse-advice-for-first-responders.pdf>

This brief guidance document from the Police College of England and Wales seeks to build skills of police in the UK who may handle HBA cases. The tool provides an overview of HBA; identifies barriers to reporting in the UK; what police should look for in terms of warning signs and high-risk indicators; and essential first-responder actions. The guidance directs police officers and other first responders to work with senior colleagues and HBA experts to determine appropriate actions to prioritize safety and protect the person at risk.

Individualland and UN Women (2021). Training Manual on Enhancing Attitudes of Police Towards Survivors of Violence Against Women in Pakistan.

<https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Field%20Office%20ESEA/Docs/Publications/2021/03/UN%20Women%20Police%20Manual%20compressed%2030MB-10%20Mar%202021.pdf>

This training manual was developed to sensitize police officers in Pakistan and transform their attitudes and behaviors to enable them to play a more effective role in preventing and addressing GBV. The manual is for national and regional police departments. There is a two-day training agenda that includes basic concepts, survivor-centered approaches, the role of police, public perception of police and preventive and proactive policing. Activities proposed in the manual are designed with the flexibility of giving the trainer the option to rearrange or merge different activities based on the needs of the training participants.

UN Women and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2021). Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence.

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2021/Handbook-on-gender-responsive-police-services-en.pdf>

This handbook promotes prevention-oriented policing that is gender-responsive, trauma-informed and perpetrator focused. The guidance supports international training and prioritizes three outcomes: modernization of the police forces; ensuring the wellbeing and safety of survivors in justice processes; and ensuring investigations into violence against women and girls are standardized and trauma informed. The handbook is targeted to middle managers but can equally be used to engage and train senior managements and frontline responders in development and humanitarian settings globally. Case studies are utilized to help illustrate police innovation, good practices and dedication to ensuring accountability for crimes of GBV and the safety and protection of survivors.

The handbook reinforces international standards and norms underpinning the minimum standards applicable to all police investigations techniques in cases involving GBV. The handbook encourages the reader to refer to their national investigation procedures including survivor safety protocols as well as internationally recognized protocols and best practice for specialized and more comprehensive police guidance.

The handbook covers in depth areas such as: gender-responsive police investigations; prevention; intersectionality; survivor-centered approaches; promoting positive masculinities; coordination; institution-building; and emerging issues such as online and ICT-facilitated GBV.

Akcan, B. (2020). When Honor Prevents Justice: The Proper Way Forward for Prosecuting Honor Killings in Jordan. Columbia Undergraduate Law Review.

<https://www.culawreview.org/journal/when-honor-prevents-justice-the-proper-way-forward-for-prosecuting-honor-killings-in-jordan>

This article argues that honor killings are considered more legally and socially excusable than other cases of homicide in Jordan. There are two types of honor prevailing in Middle Eastern societies: '*sharaf*', which applies to men and can be attained through family reputation, socioeconomic status or political power; and '*ardh*', which pertains specifically to women's chastity and sexual virtue. The article highlights the importance of enlisting religious and social leaders before any sociocultural change can be reflected in the legal and political systems of Jordan. The state must, on top of simply changing codes and social norms, give women opportunities to seek safe and inclusive spaces.

Mulvihill, N., Gangoli, G., Gill, A. K., & Hester, M. (2018). The Experience of Interactional Justice for Victims of 'Honour'-Based Violence and Abuse Reporting to the Police in England and Wales. Policing and Society. DOI: 10.1080/10439463.2018.1427745

https://web.archive.org/web/20180722065540id_/https://research-information.bristol.ac.uk/ws/files/147097357/The_experience_of_interactional_justice_for_victims_of_honour_based_violence_and_abuse_reporting_to_the_police_in_England_and_Wales.pdf

This paper details a study on the experience of interactional justice for victims of HBA who report to the police in England and Wales. There are two elements of interactional justice described in the paper: interpersonal and informational justice. Interpersonal justice concerns the victim's perception of the police officers, i.e. how they treat them empathetically and if they acknowledge their situation, thereby validating their status as victims of crime who deserve and require redress. Informational justice relates to timely updates following the initial report and officers explaining justice options to victims.

The study finds that means of communication are central to victims' positive experiences of justice. For example, survivors who were offered special measures, such as a personal alarm or a 'Text Us' phone, felt significantly more secure than those who were told simply to call emergency services. The research identifies three factors which influence the overall experience of interactional justice for victims of HBA in their encounter with the police. First is the responding officers' knowledge of the dynamics of HBA. This includes understanding the nature and implications on 'honor', and the behavior of perpetrators. Secondly, police officers understanding of how victims may present at a point of crisis (as uncommunicative, or unwilling to pursue the matter, for example) and ability to still support survivor safety. The third is police officers' ability to understand and be accountable their actions when investigating an instance of HBA or IPV.

ABAAD and Oxfam (2018). Working with Men in the Law Enforcement and Justice Sectors to Promote Women's Access to Justice.

<https://www.abaadmena.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/ebook.1528796781.pdf>

This report documents initiatives to work with men in law enforcement and justice sectors in MENA on GBV. Researchers conducted a desk review of different portals (including both academic and non-academic platforms) of the different literature as well as of the existing programs that tackle gender justice in relation to law enforcement and judiciary systems in MENA. The assessment found organizations across the MENA region use different modalities for working with men in the law enforcement and justice sectors, including sensitization and capacity building; institutionalization efforts with relevant stakeholders; advocacy and policy reform; and knowledge production.

The assessment highlights that national efforts are more effective when a multi-level approach (from community to national engagement) is adopted--for example sensitizing communities for behavioral change; building the capacities of police and other relevant actors within the judiciary system; and working with decision makers on policy change.

Robinson, A.L., Myhill, A., Wire, J., Roberts, J. and Tilley, N. (2016). Risk-Led Policing of Domestic Abuse and the DASH Risk Model.

<https://library.college.police.uk/docs/college-of-policing/Risk-led-policing-2-2016.pdf>

This research report discusses how risk-led policing of domestic abuse is implemented across England and Wales through the implementation of the DASH model. The study found that a lack of understanding by police officers of coercive and controlling patterns of abusive behaviors by perpetrators can have implications for what is classified as domestic abuse and therefore subject to risk assessment. There was a tendency for the police to focus on physical violence and miss continuous coercion and control in other forms of violence and abuse to survivors/victims. The report encouraged development of a risk assessment to encourage frontline police officers to collect the most salient information in a more complete and consistent way and with a better understanding of coercive control and dangerous patterns of behavior.

HBA Prevention and Advocacy Priorities and Activities in MENA

This section focuses on prevention of and advocacy on HBA. It offers a general sense of key areas of focus of HBA prevention work and identifies several organizations in MENA that have done this work. The content is not specific to working with the police on prevention. However, the information on general HBA prevention activities may be relevant to integrate into police training materials.

Articles on HBA Prevention in MENA

Rautureau, L. and Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (2020). Honor Crimes in Jordan: Between Legislation and Women's Experience.

<https://achrs.org/english/2020/12/20/honor-crimes-in-jordan-between-legislation-and-womens-experience/>

This report shares the success of a coalition of 100 organizations that formed to abolish Article 308 of the Jordanian Penal Code, which allowed rapists to escape punishment if they married their victims. The abolition, which the House of Representatives approved in August 2017, was directly influenced by a widespread media campaign launched by women rights activists and an Arabic-speaking newspaper.

The report argues that women's activism must be national and specific to Jordan to ensure success. The author contends an internationally defined and driven agenda would cause more harm to women rights in Jordan than it would help, especially in relation to HBA and sexual violence.

Kirti, A, Kumar, P., Yadav, R. (2011). The Face of Honour-Based Crimes: Global Concerns and Solutions. International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences; Thirunelveli Vol. 6, Iss. 1/2: 343-357.

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/1011050411?sourcetype=Scholarly%20Journals>

This article highlights that women in the family tend to support honor killing and the idea that family is the property and asset of men and boys. Matriarchs are not motivated by personal belief in the misogynistic ideology of women as property, but rather by pragmatic calculations. Sometimes a mother may support an honor killing of a female family member to protect other female family members, since many men in these societies will refuse to marry the sister of a shamed female whom the family has not chosen to punish.

The article recommends the development of national penal, civil and administrative sanctions to punish family violence, including HBA. Other interventions include health and awareness-raising programs, and adoption of appropriate education measures to modify social and cultural behaviors that sanction HBA. The author stresses that no strategy for combating crimes of honor can be implemented and sustained without the consent and cooperation of the communities in question. This requires community discourse, with explicit discussion of honor crimes. Community discourse helps generate political pressure to allocate resources and implement policies for combating crimes of honor. Discourse can include radio and television programs in local languages, Friday sermons and discussions at local mosques, songs, formal and informal education in schools, sports and youth clubs, and women's or other community associations.

The article also argues for the importance of early socialization of children against cultural values that condone or reward crimes of honor, and for transforming the institutional culture and priorities of state officials concerned with various aspects of these crimes.

Organizations in MENA and the MENA Diaspora with HBA Prevention Activities

ABAAD Campaigns on Culture of Shame and Honor.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6KmOenVtKI>

ABAAD— Resource Center for Gender Equality is a UN ECOSOC accredited organization that aims to achieve gender equality as an essential condition to sustainable social and economic development in the MENA region. ABAAD collaborated with artist Remie Akl to create [Dirty Laundry](#), a poignant film that highlights the culture of shaming rape victims in Lebanon. The film is based on the idea that survivors of sexual abuse in Lebanon are taught to “hide

their dirty laundry” and made to feel as though they’re responsible for upholding the honor and dignity of the family, which in turn ensures their silence. The film was inspired by research conducted by ABAAD that found several survivors of sexual assault did not report because they feel shame, or they were pressured not to report so as not to tarnish the honor of their family. Alongside the film, a campaign was launched by ABAAD as part of UN Women’s 16 days of Activism: #NoShameNoBlame. The campaign called for the punishment of these crimes to be as serious as the crimes themselves.

IKWRO Campaigns on Honor Based Abuse.

<https://ikwro.org.uk/campaigns/#:~:text=IKWRO%20campaigns%20to%20end%20all,conversion%20therapy%20and%20corrective%20rape>.

IKWRO is an organization founded and run by MENA women. IKWRO supports crucial conversations and actions to reject violence against women and girls within the MENA diaspora and beyond. The organization campaigns for better laws and policies, informed by the experiences of the women and girls in MENA and the diaspora, to protect rights, tackle abuse, and safeguard and improve lives. IKWRO works to end all forms of HBA and other harmful practices, including forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

IKWRO provides [bespoke training sessions](#) to organization and professionals working with survivors who may be at risk of harmful practices including HBA. The training covers definitions and understanding of HBA, and best practice including dos and don’ts, warning signs, and how to make safe and effective referrals.

Karma Nirvana Campaigns on Honor Based Abuse: Day of Memory.

<https://karmanirvana.org.uk/campaigns/day-of-memory/>

Karma Nirvana is a specialist charity for victims and survivors of HBA in the UK. They work to raise awareness, remember the victims of HBA, and to influence government policy and bring about change. On 14 July every year, the charity hosts remembrance celebration of those lost to HBA. The campaign has several components including a conference inviting key stakeholders including police to reflect, celebrate and renew commitments to end HBA. The organization collaborated with Cosmopolitan where they shared the [story](#) and [poetry](#) of Shafiq Ahmed, a victim of honor killing. On social media they have created the #WeRemember hashtag to raise awareness.

UN WOMEN Egypt Awareness-raising Video on Ending Violence against Women and Girls and Cyber Violence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZYtxHNYkgA> (English and Arabic)

This video seeks to raise awareness on cyber violence and inform women and girls that it is a crime. It encourages young girls to seek support and assistance from their parents. The videos are part of wider communication campaigns called “Speak up” and [#YouAreNotAlone](#), supported by UN Women and Safer Cities, to change the culture of victim-blaming, advocate for social responsibility in preventing and reporting forms of violence against women, and promote access to GBV services.

Irish Consortium on GBV (2022). A Guide on Ethical Storytelling on Gender Based Violence.

https://cdn1.internationalmedicalcorps.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ICGBV_Ethical-Storytelling_2022.pdf

The guide is aimed at any staff working across communications, fundraising, and programming in development and humanitarian contexts. It provides guidance to organizations wanting to talk about GBV in a way that respects and protects those who have experienced it. The guide primarily focuses on the ethical challenges of engaging with a survivor of GBV who chooses to make her story public, via communications campaigns, fundraising campaigns, or programme reporting. Issues of ethical storytelling are critical in relation to HBA.

The GBV AoR Help Desk

The GBV AoR Helpdesk is a unique research and technical advice service which aims to inspire and support humanitarian actors to help prevent, mitigate and respond to violence against women and girls in emergencies. Managed by Social Development Direct, the GBV AoR Helpdesk is staffed by a global roster of senior Gender and GBV Experts who are on standby to help guide frontline humanitarian actors on GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response measures in line with international standards, guidelines and best practice. Views or opinions expressed in GBV AoR Helpdesk Products do not necessarily reflect those of all members of the GBV AoR, nor of all the experts of SDDirect's Helpdesk roster.

The GBV AoR Helpdesk

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Our services are free and confidential.