

“To really change the world, we have to help people change the way they see things. So if you want to see real change, stay persistent in educating humanity” Suzie Kassem



ذہب



جوہر

# Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence

- What is Forced Marriage
- What is Honour Based Violence?
- Why are FM and HBV practiced?
- Where can you go for help?

# Before we start- Our Agreement



LISTEN



SENSITIVE



OPEN AND HONEST



CHALLENGE IDEAS  
NOT THE PERSON



RESPECTFUL

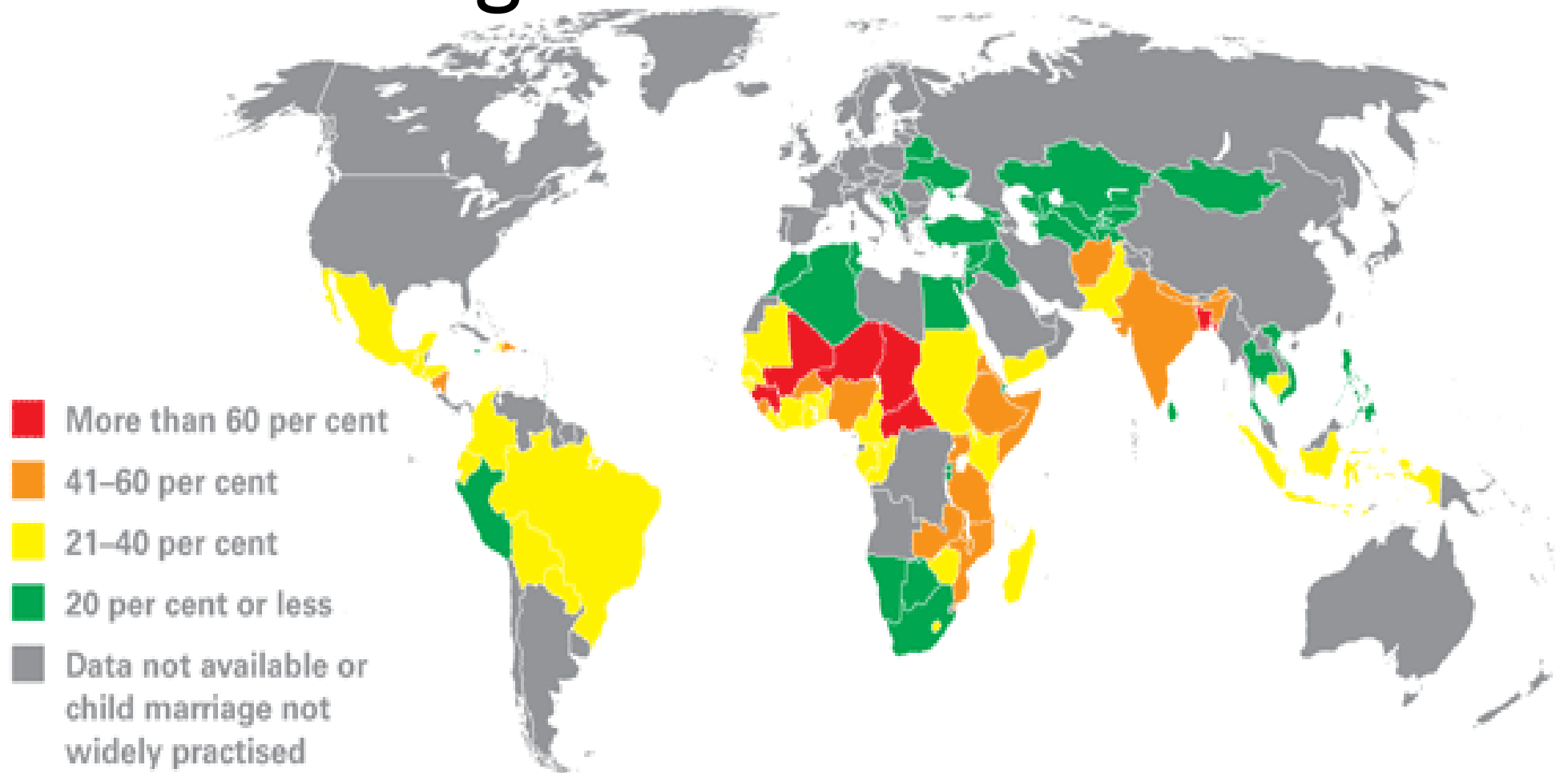


YOUR VOICE IS  
IMPORTANT

# Minimum age of marriage

- UK
  - US
  - Afghanistan
  - Algeria
  - Bangladesh
  - Brunei
  - Costa Rica
  - Equador
  - Egypt
  - Saudi Arabi
  - New Hampshire
  - Yemen
  - Emirates
- 16
  - None to 18
  - 16/18
  - 19
  - 18/21
  - 13
  - 15
  - 12/14
  - 18
  - None
  - 13
  - 18
  - 18 (judge consent)

# Child Marriage



# Forced Marriage

- “A marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor.”
- An “arranged marriage” is one where parents or other relatives choose the suitor, but both parties involved have the final say and can say no at any point.

# Debate

- Arranged marriages and forced marriages are both wrong
- Forced marriage is a form of slavery
- Men commit honour based violence against women
- Women can bring shame to their families and communities. Families must protect against the dishonour and shame
- It is a religious obligation to marry
- Forced or arranged marriages work and last longer than love marriages.



## FM - A human rights violation

- Forcing someone to marry can result in a sentence of up to 7 years in prison.
- 1200 - 5000 reported cases per year in England.
- Articles 1 and 2 of the United Nations Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery akin forced marriage to slavery.

# Forced marriage cases in the UK

Pakistan - 439 cases (37%)

Bangladesh – 129 cases (11%)

Somalia - 91 cases (7.5%)

India - 82 cases (7%)

# Reasons



RELIGION



CULTURE



HONOUR



CONTROL UNWANTED  
BEHAVIOUR



“FAMILY HONOUR”



FINANCIAL



CITIZENSHIP

# They will find you!

- Physical pressure (threats, physical violence or sexual violence)
- Emotional and psychological (making someone feel like they are bringing 'shame' on their family).
- Financial abuse (taking someone's wages)

# What next?



Violence



Rape, forced pregnancy and childbearing



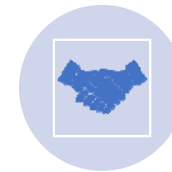
Withdrawn from education early



Taken and left abroad, isolated from help and support



Interrupted education limits their career choices



Prevented from taking a job or wages taken from them



Unable to leave the house



Honour is thicker  
than blood



# What is Honour based violence?

- So called 'Honour' based violence (HBV) is
- any act of **violence**,
- predominately against **women** and **girls**,
- which is committed by **family** or **community** member(s)
- in order to defend their **perceived** **honour**

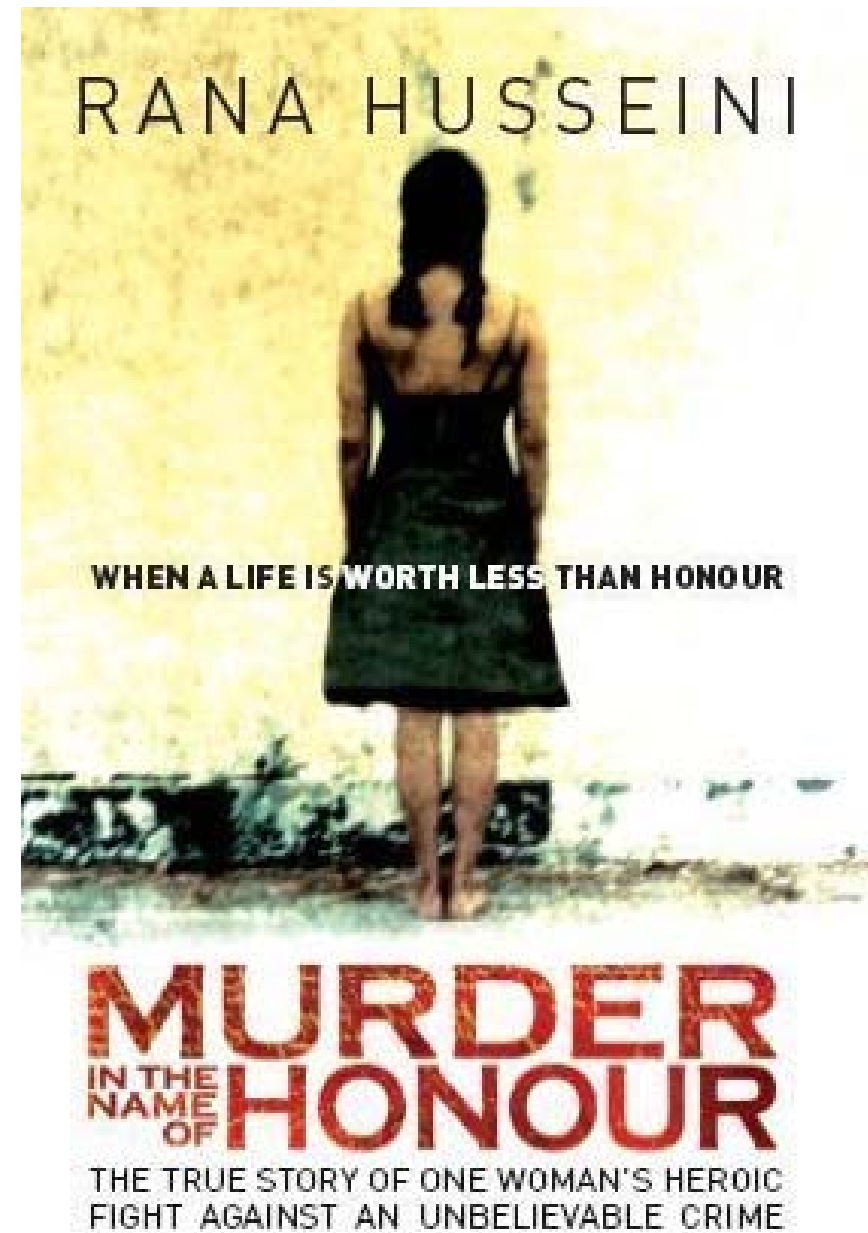
# Where in the world?

- 5,000 'honour' killings per year
- 1000 honour killings occur in India
- 1000 honour killings occur in Pakistan
- 12 -15 honour killings per year in UK
- Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, India, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Yemen, and Mediterranean and Persian Gulf countries



# Jordan

- Activist
- Journalist





Fadime Sahinda

# Shafilea Ahmed

- Went missing at age 17 from her home in Warrington in 2003.
- Her body was found on the banks of River Kent six months later.
- Her parents, Iftikhar and Farzana Ahmed were found guilty in 2012 and **jailed for life**.
- Murdered by parents, suffocated with a plastic bag, after years of abuse.
- Her parents believed she was too westernised because she wanted to attend parties, go on dates and wear make-up.



# Surjit Athwal

- Murdered in 1998
- Surjit's children were nine months and six years
- 70-year-old Sikh grandmother was jailed for life for arranging the "honour killing". She blamed Surjit bringing shame on the family name by seeking a divorce.
- She was lured to India and murdered. Her body was thrown in the river Ravi.
- Forced into the marriage at age of 16



# Triggers for HBV

- Refusing an arranged marriage
- Having a relationship outside the approved group
- Loss of virginity or pregnancy
- Sexuality
- Spending time without the supervision of a family member
- Reporting domestic violence
- Attempting to divorce
- Pushing for custody of children after divorce
- Refusing to divorce when ordered to do so by family members



# Barriers

- Fear of authority
- HBV is a collective crime
- lack self-confidence and self-reliance
- Family matters
- Laws to protect honour as motive (Syria 1-2 years)
- Reduced sentencing
- Language barrier
- Where to go for help?

# Where to go for help?

## The Halo Project

**Telephone:** 01642 683 045

- **Email:** [info@haloproject.org.uk](mailto:info@haloproject.org.uk)
- **Opening hours:** Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
- **Address:**
- Vanguard Suite 307a  
Broadcasting House  
Middlesbrough TS1 5JA

- The Forced Marriage Unit
- 020 7008 0151 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (UK time).
- Outside those hours, call 020 7008 1500 and ask for the Foreign Office Response Centre.
- Email [fmunit@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fmunit@fco.gov.uk)
- Facebook: [Forced Marriage page](#)
- Twitter: [@FMUnit](#)



# KARMA NIRVANA

Supporting victims of honour-based abuse & forced marriage

- **UK Helpline: 0800 5999 247**
- Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm.
- [info@karmanirvana.org.uk](mailto:info@karmanirvana.org.uk)



What will you do next?

**“Changes are products of intensive efforts.”**