FACTSHEET

Violence and Abuse within BAME (Black Asian Minority Ethnic Groups)

This factsheet must be read and followed through by attending the recommended webinar that will focus on a case study and outline the barriers faced by women from ethnic backgrounds.

Support for Women from Minority Ethnic Communities:

Women from minority ethnic groups can face additional vulnerabilities because of culture, tradition, immigration status, discrimination and exploitation. If a woman or someone you know is experiencing – violence and abuse, FGM, forced marriage, marriage within rape, breast ironing, domestic abuse any other forms of harm – there is safety and help available.

If you are in immediate danger, please dial – 999. If you are unable to speak when you dial 999 and listen to the operator. If you are **unable to speak press 55**. This will let the operator know it is a genuine emergency. This will only work on mobiles.

If you are not facing immediate danger, but would like to speak about your issue you can contact the following charities:

Stop Domestic Abuse
Portsmouth City of Sanctuary
Karma Nirvana
Southhall Black Sisters
The National Domestic Abuse Helpline- 0808 2000 247.

Some questions you may have regarding violence and abuse:

1. **Is your partner, husband or a family member harming or hurting you? Are you afraid for your safety?**

   You can contact any of the above listed agencies. If you are in immediate harm, please call the police on 999.

2. **Are you in the UK on a visa and dependant on your partner who is abusing you?**

   It can be very scary to come forward for help if you are in the UK and your right to remain here is dependent on your partner. Have you been told that your partner or family are controlling and have power over your visa? Are you afraid your children will be removed from you if you look for help?

Here are some simple questions and answers to help you –

If I am here on a visa and my spouse has a visa which is linked to mine, will I get into trouble with the home office if I leave him?

No, the law on domestic violence is clear as outlined in the **Domestic Violence Act 2021**. If you call the police or seek out help, you will not be punished for speaking out. The visa may be cancelled by the home office, but you can seek further immigration advice.

Do my family or my husband/partner control my visa.

Your visa may be dependent on your relationship with your spouse. A relationship breakdown can result in home office removing your visa. However, this decision is with the home office and not your partner. There is no one that controls your visa. It is only the home office that can curtail (remove) your visa. You can access legal advice to change your visa if you leave your partner because of domestic violence.

Will my children be removed from me if I speak up about the abuse in my house from my partner/spouse?

No, children are not removed without a full investigation, and this is not something that happens because you are fleeing domestic violence.

My partner/husband does not "beat me" he only controls my money, where I go and he sometimes calls me bad names. Is this domestic violence?

Yes, it is. In the UK it is known as emotional abuse or coercion. You should have access to your own money, passport and the right to seek help.

NRPF – No Recourse to Public Funds

Migrant women who are in the UK on a spouse visa or who are dependants of a partner who may be in the UK as a student or work visa, may be able to apply for a three-month visa which will allow them to claim benefits and access refuge. This scheme is called the migrant victims of Domestic abuse concession.

Migrant women who are NRPF (no recourse to public funds) are not able to access refuge space due to not being eligible for public funds. The following charities can offer support:

1. Stop Domestic Abuse
2. Portsmouth City of Sanctuary
3. Southall Black Sisters
4. National Domestic Abuse Helpline

Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession (Formally the DDVC)

Details on this scheme can be found here

Southern Affordable Immigration Service and any legal aid solicitor can assist with the application.

E-VISA

When you are in the UK on a visa, it can be very stressful if you are experiencing violence and abuse. It is important for you to keep your documents safe. As of the 1st January 2025, the Home Office are moving to a digital platform. More information can be found here

You will need your biometric residence permit (BRP) or your passport to register. If you are experiencing harm or violence, you can use copies of these documents to register for the e-visa scheme or to log into your account. If you do not have access to these documents, an immigration advisor can help you to get your information from the home office.

If you need support and advice you can contact:

Portsmouth City of Sanctuary

Southern Affordable Immigration Service

Portsmouth City Council in partnership with:

VISTA

Portsmouth City of Sanctuary