The following factors have been associated with cases of honour/shame based violence. While these factors do not predict violence, their presence suggests additional areas are to be considered when creating a safety plan. For helpers working with a survivor of Honour Based Violence, use this information to help you build a safety plan using other inserts to address their safety needs.

Factors:

- Rigid adherence to values, cultural norms, and faith principles, particularly in the face of opposing evidence. Possesses a distorted, usually extreme view of culture/faith specifically as it relates to the role of women, sexual orientation, and/or socialization of children/youth.

- The family shares the values/belief system with a culture/religion/etc. where shame and abuse is frequently used to change behaviour of family members.

- There are other persons, community members, extended family members involved in the case – encouraging or supporting abusive, violent and threatening behaviours.

- There is a high level of community economic interdependence based on family status (i.e.: employment, trade, contracts, dowry).

- You believe there to be a credible threat of violence/abuse to one or more persons relating to this case.

RISK FACTORS

- Serious violent threats or thoughts
- Violent acts
- Honour based violent acts
- Violent criminality
- Escalation
- Attitudes supporting honour based violence
- High degree of insult
- Origin from an area with known sub-cultural values
- Lack of cultural integration to Western culture
- Personal problems
- Intervention from outside agency/person
- Person is dating and others may be aware

VICTIM VULNERABILITY FACTORS

- Inconsistent behaviour and/or attitude
- Extreme fear
- Inadequate access to resources
- Unsafe living situation
- Personal problems
Reasons for Honour Based Violence:

- Not covering hair or face
- Not covering their bodies
- Rebelling against domestic servitude
- Wearing make-up
- Western clothing – lifestyle
- Leaving the religion
- Dating
- Seeking advanced education
- Refusing an arranged marriage
- Seeking a divorce
- Marry against parents’ wishes
- Behave independently

Difference between Honour Based Violence and Domestic Violence:

- Perpetrators have support from family
- It is a collective decision
- Perpetrators may not have remorse
- Once collective decision has been made it is difficult to reverse
- A marked woman has little chance of being forgiven
- Age of victims range from 5-40 years old
- Gossip and rumours can start a scandal that can lead to death
- Perpetrators may be rewarded (status)
- Self-sacrificing is glorified
- Parents can be the murderers
- Honour based violence gives the family the perceptions they are reclaiming status
- Families can hire contract killers, or send victim overseas where they are vulnerable and untraceable

Get more information about risks to safety

- Clarify reason for seeking help
- Is there immediate danger?
- Was a threat made? If yes, why were they threatened and what is the threat?
- What was the trigger for the threat?
- **IF THEY HAVE A PARTNER (DATING) THEY ARE IN DANGER.** Ask how many people know about the partner?
- Who is the main source of danger?
- What actions have already occurred?
- What specifically does the person fear?
- Do family members have a criminal record?
- Identify school or place of employment?
- Identify what steps they are willing to take?
- Assess whether they can return home?
- Learn about what story they have told to cover their tracks?

*Risk is heightened with disclosure – who are they in danger from and what does the danger look like?*
DO:
- Discuss/reinforce confidentiality
- Provide information about available services
- Discuss “human” rights
- Speak with them alone
- Give them two or more contacts (ensure these contacts are aware not to contact family)

DON’T:
- Use friends or family as interpreters
- Mediate with family members
- Send them back to the perpetrator(s)
- Inform any family members where they are
- Don’t assume female relatives will support them
