

**Honour Related Violence and Honour Killings (Crimes in  
the name of honour): Exploring Rhetoric & Reality**

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# Honour Related Violence and Honour Killings (Crimes in the name of honour):

## Exploring Rhetoric & Reality

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# Activity

- ▶ Using Padlet or post-it notes please answer to below questions:

[Note: there is no right/wrong answer please share your opinion]

**Q1: What does honour mean to you?**

<https://padlet.com/sadiqbhanbhro/v5i6gxwqvkmh>



# Question 2

- ▶ When you listen word 'honour' what does come in your mind?

<https://padlet.com/sadiqbanbhro/h7rrb6l6bxo>



## Honour [Admired]

- ▶ Honour
  - Medal
  - Degree
  - Award
  - Titles
- ▶ British Empire Honour System
  - GBE
  - CBE
  - OBE
  - etc.

## Honour [Notorious]

- ▶ Honour
  - Violence
  - Killings/Murders
  - Abuse
  - Crime
  - Marriage etc.



# Honour: Definition

- ▶ High respect; great esteem (OED)
- ▶ Self-esteem
- ▶ Prestige
- ▶ Dignity
- ▶ Morally right thing
- ▶ Grace

# HBV: definition

- ▶ HBV is an umbrella term:
  - domestic abuse
  - death threats
  - physical, sexual and psychological abuse
  - acid attacks
  - forced marriage
  - forced suicide
  - forced abortion
  - female genital mutilation
  - assault
  - blackmail
  - being held against one's will
  - Killing or attempted killing

(IKWRO, 2014; HMIC, 2015)

## Pakistan

kala-kali (Punjab)

**karo-kari (Sindh)**

tor-tora (Khyber)

Pakhtunkhwa)

siyakari (Balochistan)

## Other terms:

Honour Crime

Honour Based Conflicts

Patriarchal violence/murders

Customary/Ritual Murders

Revolt Killing

## ▶ Honour killing

- the perpetrators (predominantly family members) killed a woman and/or a girl perceived as having brought or tried to bring shame or dishonour to the family, clan or community.

- ▶ Prime Minister agreed with Nusrat Ghani MP that so-called **“honour-based” violence** should be re-categorised as an act of terror in the UK (2016).

- ▶ **Consequences**

- ▶ Politically charged topic

|                     |    |   | (Source: HRCP)          |
|---------------------|----|---|-------------------------|
| India<br>(5 states) | HK | 2016 – 77<br>2015 – 251<br>2014 – 28<br>2010 – 900 (3 states) | (Source: Time of India) |

- ▶ **Laws have been tightened**
  - implementation is questionable

News > UK > Crime

**Muslim girl 'who had throat slit in honour killing' thanked god for 'everything' days before her death**

Celine Dookhran, who was 'kidnapped, raped and murdered' in suspected honour killing, posted thankful tweet shortly before she died

# Current academic theorisation

**Is "honour killing" part of Pakistani/Asian/South Asian/Middle Eastern culture?**

**Is "honour killing" an Islamic/Muslim culture/tradition?**

**Is "honour killing" clash of two cultures?**

# Theorisation mainly in two camps:

- **Cultural relativism**
  - Values are cultural specific
- **Post-structuralism**
  - *Difference* (us vs them, west vs east, developed vs underdeveloped etc.)
- **Academics are divided: Western and Non-Western**
  - Western – honour is kind of biological reality of non-Western cultures
  - Non-Western – honour is just a lame excuse and it has no power to influence on peoples' behaviours and action

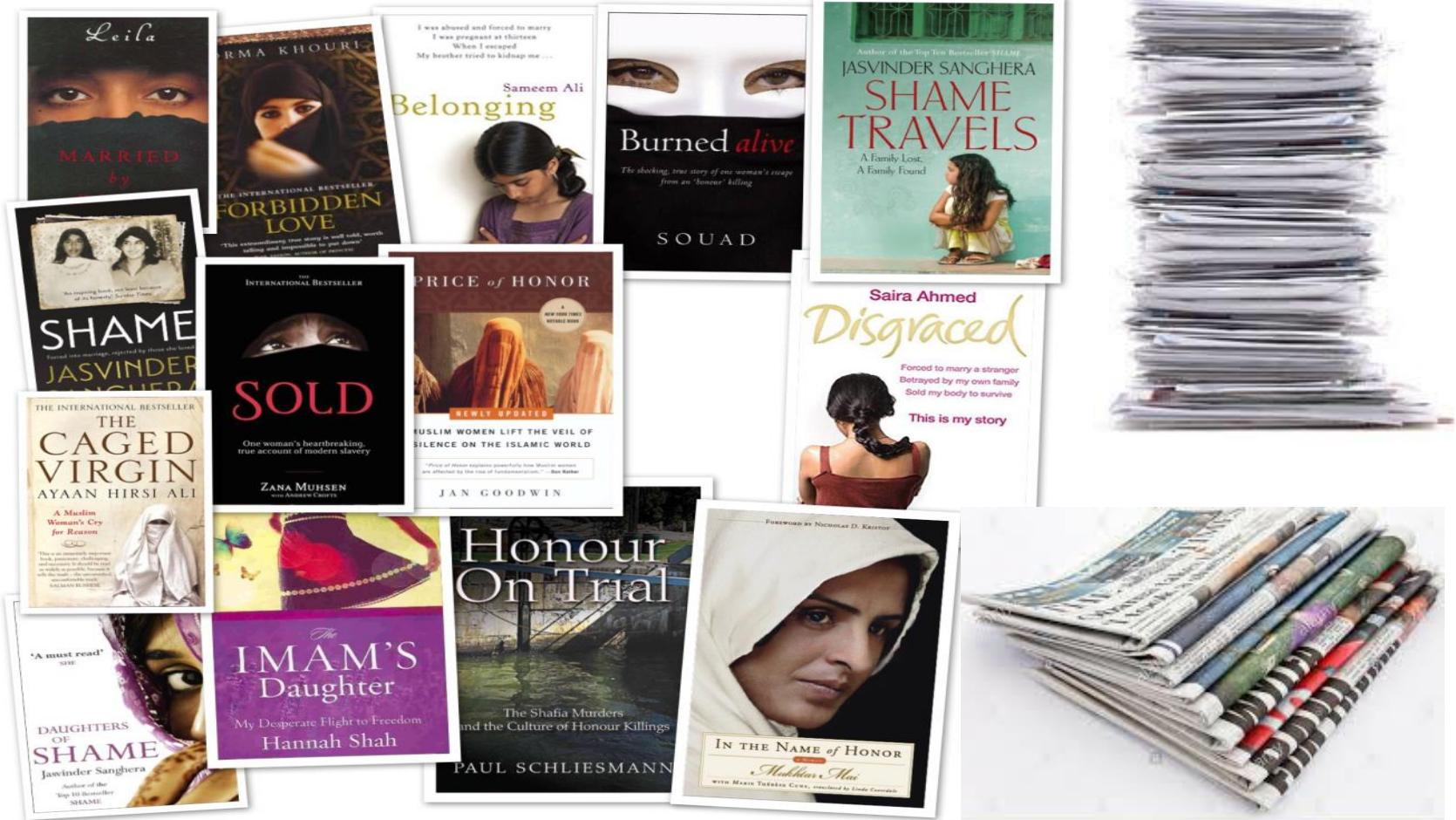
# Rhetoric

- ▶ Culture/customary practice
- ▶ Muslim problem (Chesler, & Bloom, 2012; Perlmutter, 2011; Feldner, 2000)
- ▶ Victims are only women and girls
- ▶ Perpetrators are only men and boys
- ▶ Sacred/Ritualistic practice (Sev'r, 2013; Perlmutter, 2011; Patel, & Gadit, 2008)
- ▶ 5000 cases occur worldwide annually (UNFP, 2000).
- ▶ Pakistan and Afghanistan are in Middle East.

# Reality

- ▶ No – it is a harmful practice exists in some shape or form in many cultures.
- ▶ No – it exists in Christians, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Yezidis, Druze and non-believers (Gill, 2008; Terman, 2010; Shafak, 2012; Chesler, & Bloom, 2012).
- ▶ No – Men, boys, gays, bisexuals, lesbian & transgender are victims too (Bhanbhro, 2015; Shah, 2016).
- ▶ No – women also take part
- ▶ No – an excuse not to engage with people/communities.
- ▶ No – this is a tip of iceberg
- ▶ No – neither geographically nor socially or culturally.

# Where does the rhetoric come from?



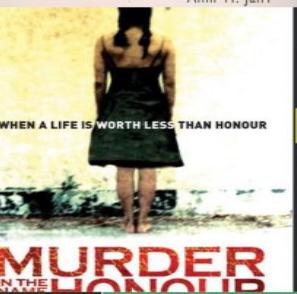
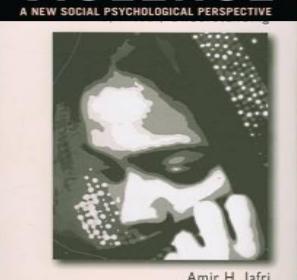
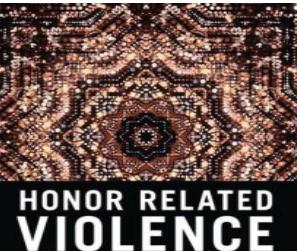
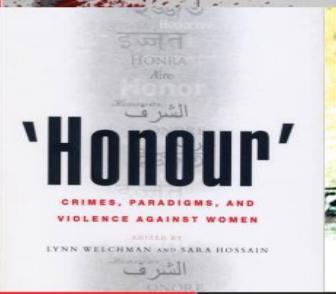
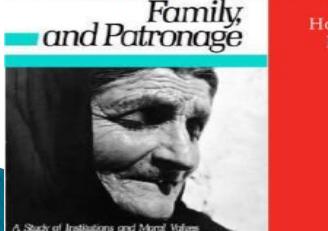
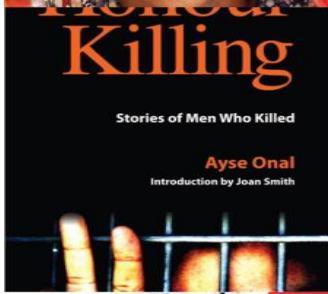
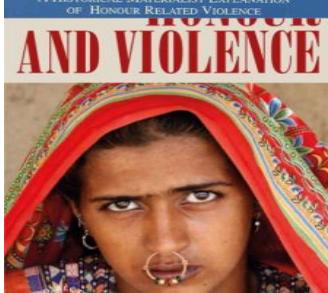
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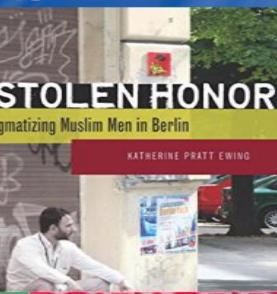
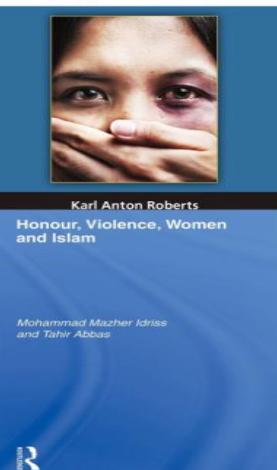
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www.lornc.com

# What about a reality?

## HONOUR



## Violence Policing and Prevention



# Existing explanations

- ▶ Three main features are eminent:
  - violence and killings in the name of honour are the products of certain 'cultures' – labelled as 'honour cultures'.
  - these cultures are mainly non-western, distant, static and insular (Volpp, 2000).
  - the culture behind the HBV & killings is characterised – as a fixed and homogenous entity.

# What the explanation do?

- ▶ Hypersensitive issue
- ▶ Specified to almost a single group
- ▶ Stigmatised and stereotyped particular groups
- ▶ Police and Crown Prosecution Services are reluctant to tackle the issue.
- ▶ The wider social, political and economic factors are ignored.
- ▶ Less attention paid to engage people and groups.



Courtesy @IKWRO

# My research

## ▶ Research Question

- uncover and explain notions of honour and how they are implicated in 'honour killings' of women and girls in Pakistan and within people of Pakistani descent living in the UK.

## ▶ Methodology

- the critical realist social constructionism

## ▶ Research sites

- England (South Yorkshire) and Pakistan (Sindh province).

# Methods and participants

## Methods

- ▶ Informal conversations
- ▶ In-depth interviews
- ▶ Focus groups
- ▶ Observations
- ▶ Archives

## Participants

- ▶ Male (n=50)
- ▶ Female (n= 35)
- ▶ Events (n=4)
- ▶ Archives (Since 1757,  
South Asia in general  
India and Pakistan in  
particular)

# Honour: Definition

## Honour

is a **social asset** (highly valued & fiercely protected)

of

**social standing**

to an individual/family

### Norm Circle (NC)

a group/set of individuals  
who endorse and enforce a  
social norm

within their

**norm circle**

### Main features of NC

- Mainly consists of kith and kin
- Distance doesn't matter
- Members don't have equal importance or influence

# "Honour Killings"

a social practice to maintain and protect the valuable social asset (honour).

## Social practice

a routinised set of collective behaviours underpinned by a web of intersubjective meanings.

# Preliminary findings

- ▶ Strong normative social expectations
  - mediated through gossip.
  - enforced by social sanctions (both +ve & -v)
- ▶ HKs has various forms
  - For example, genuine and non-genuine
- ▶ Overwhelming support for genuine HKs.
- ▶ Fraudulent use of honour.
- ▶ Forced Marriages i.e. cousin or interfamily marriages leads to HKs in the UK

# Conclusion

- ▶ Honour is:
  - socially constructed,
  - historically and culturally variable,
  - functions to control women's behaviours, sexuality and body.
- ▶ Eradicating or banning the notion of honour is neither realistic nor essentially needed
- ▶ Urgent and active peoples' and social engagement required:
  - to redefine honour,
  - reform its implications
  - remove social expectations in context of the practice.
- ▶ Formal legal provisions that tacitly endorse need to be reformed.
- ▶ Human rights framework promoted to raise awareness.
- ▶ Urgent efforts and actions required to dismantle patriarchal systems.

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# Thanks for listening

## Comments and Questions