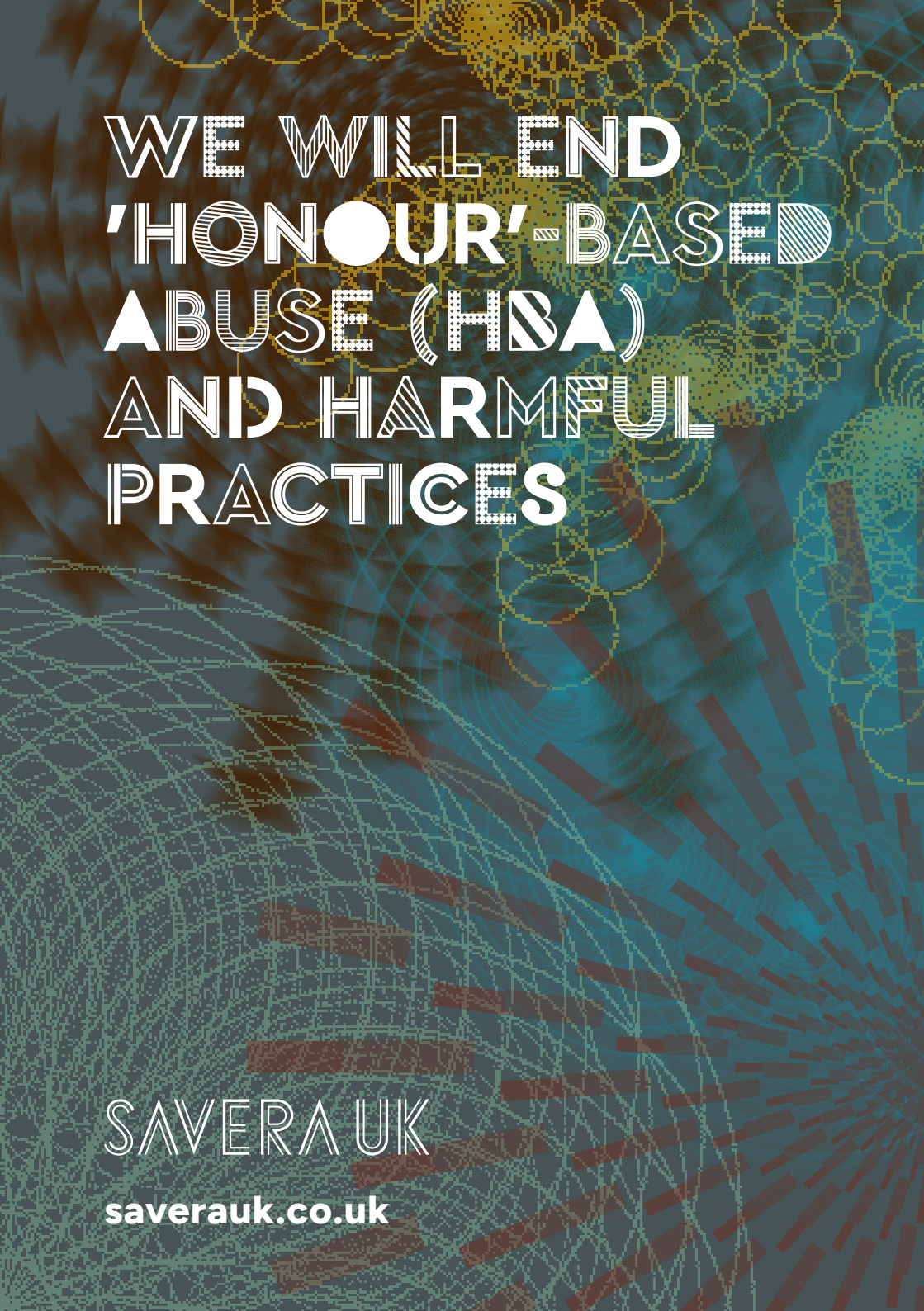




WE WILL END 'HONOUR'-BASED ABUSE (HBA) AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

SAVERAUK

saverauk.co.uk

HBA IN THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

HBA is a crime or incident that has or may have been committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of the family and/or community.

Being LGBTQ+ or questioning your sexuality and/or gender identity when it is not acceptable within your family, faith or community's beliefs, can be perceived as 'dishonourable' or bringing 'shame' on the family or community. Perpetrator(s) of HBA feel that the only way to restore family 'honour' or remove the 'shame' is to threaten to harm or kill, and in some cases even follow through on these threats.

'Honour'-Based Abuse (HBA) & The LGBTQ+ Community

LGBTQ+ individuals can be at high risk of 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) and harmful practices, which can manifest in a multitude of ways, but may not be recognised as HBA.

LGBTQ+ refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and all other identities included under the LGBTQ+ umbrella, including but not limited to intersex, asexual, pansexual and nonbinary.

HBA targeting people from the LGBTQ+ community happens in all cultures, ethnicities, religions and communities.

Savera UK is a leading charity working to end HBA and harmful practices and helps survivors and anyone who is at risk or under threat, regardless of sexuality, gender identity or expression, age, religion, culture or ethnicity.

What Is HBA?

HBA encompasses the physical, emotional, and practical abuse (e.g., emotional, coercive, financial, spiritual) that those at risk endure, while 'honour'-based violence (HBV) refers to specific acts of violence committed in the name of 'honour', for example when talking about physical attacks or 'honour' killings.

Physical and emotional abuse, being closely monitored and controlled, coercive behaviour and/or other forms of 'punishment' from multiple perpetrators in the family and/or wider community, can occur if someone is perceived to have violated cultural or religious norms related to sexuality and/or gender identity.

What Are Harmful Practices?

Harmful practices reflect the values and beliefs held by members of a family and/or a community that have been there for generations. Culture and beneficial values and beliefs are often conflated with beliefs and practices that are harmful and a violation of human rights, and used as an 'excuse' for abuse.

Perpetrators may wrongly believe that they are doing the right thing and/or that they are helping in some way by perpetuating these practices or beliefs. All of these are human rights violations and abuse and should not be accepted.

Some examples of harmful practices that may impact LGBTQ+ people are:

- Conversion 'therapy'
- Forced marriages
- Spiritual abuse
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Corrective rape
- Forced suicides
- 'Honour'-killings
- Social ostracism
- Forced relocation
- Coercion to conform to heteronormative behaviours/appearances
- Coercion to conform to traditional gender expectations

CONVERSION 'THERAPY' AND HBA

Anyone who is LGBTQ+ or exploring/questioning their sexual orientation and/or gender identity can be at risk of conversion 'therapy', regardless of age, culture, background or ethnicity.

However, there is a greater risk in communities where being LGBTQ+ is not accepted or considered to be against religious or cultural 'norms'.

Conversion 'therapy' may be used by family and community members as a form of control or punishment if someone is perceived to have violated cultural or religious norms related to sexuality and/or gender identity.

This is a form of HBA as it is intended to protect the perceived 'honour' or reputation of the family or community and punish the person who is believed to have brought 'shame' upon them.

Conversion 'therapy' is not currently banned in the UK.

Savera UK, along with many health, mental health and LGBTQ+ organisations, is backing calls for a complete legislative ban that makes conversion therapy illegal:

Wherever it occurs – in public or private, through healthcare or religious and cultural interventions

Whoever is targeted – whether a child or an adult, whether they are coerced or have been pressured into "consenting"

From the moment it's spotted – including where such 'practices' and 'therapies' or advertised on or offline

WHAT WE DO

‘Savera’ means ‘new beginning’ in Hindi, a theme that is symbolic of what the charity provides to survivors and those who are at risk of harmful practices.

- National helpline
- Safeguarding and advocacy
- Helping people to flee abusive environments
- Empowerment and wellbeing programmes
- Specialist advisory services for professionals

We also work to end HBA and harmful practices through:

- Academic research
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Awareness programmes and projects
- HBA and harmful practices training
- Community and youth engagement
- Programmes and campaigns to change attitudes and influence policy

Might I Be At Risk?

Are you LGBTQ+ or questioning your sexuality and/or gender identity and:

- Your family and/or community believes that this goes against their ‘honour’ or values?
- You are worried or fearful of your family and/or members of your community finding out?
- You are being forced into a marriage as a ‘cure’ or to hide your sexuality?
- You are being subjected to religious/spiritual, medical, physical or psychological interventions to ‘cure’ or change your sexuality and/or gender identity?
- You are being monitored and your behaviour/expression controlled?
- You are being threatened with or subjected to any form of harm, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, or psychological abuse?
- Or are you unsure if you are at risk and would like to speak to someone confidentially about your concerns?

Contact us and we will do all we can to help you.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CONTACT US

We will help you whatever your age,
culture, sexuality or gender.

If you contact Savera UK, a specialist from our direct intervention team will listen to you and hear your concerns.

Everything you tell us is confidential. Unless we believe your life is in danger or you are at imminent risk of harm, what you tell us goes no further.

We can then help you make a plan of action.

We will explain the various options that are available to you, and highlight specialist services and agencies that will be able to help you., but we will only take action with your consent.

We also know that language matters. We will always respect your pronouns and while Savera UK uses terms such as 'FGM' in its external communications, when working privately with survivors, we take care to use the language and terminology that makes them comfortable, for example referring to GM with Transgender, non-binary or gender non-conforming individuals.

Contact Us

You can contact our helpline
0800 107 0726 (10am – 4pm,
weekdays excluding bank holidays)

**If you are at immediate risk,
please ring 999**

If you are a professional wishing
to get advice or refer a case
to Savera UK:

**[www.saverauk.co.uk/
professional-interventions/](http://www.saverauk.co.uk/professional-interventions/)**

If you are an individual
who needs help
www.saverauk.co.uk/i-need-help/

General Enquiries:

0330 159 2004
info@saverauk.co.uk

    **SaveraUK**

FURTHER INFORMATION AND HELP

National

Savera UK Learning Hub

www.saverauklearninghub.co.uk

Naz & Matt Foundation

nazandmattfoundation.org

LGBT Foundation

lgbt.foundation

Galop

galop.org.uk

Ban Conversion Therapy

www.banconversiontherapy.com

Loving Me

www.lovingme.uk/

Cheshire & Merseyside

LCR Pride Foundation

www.lcrpride.co.uk/

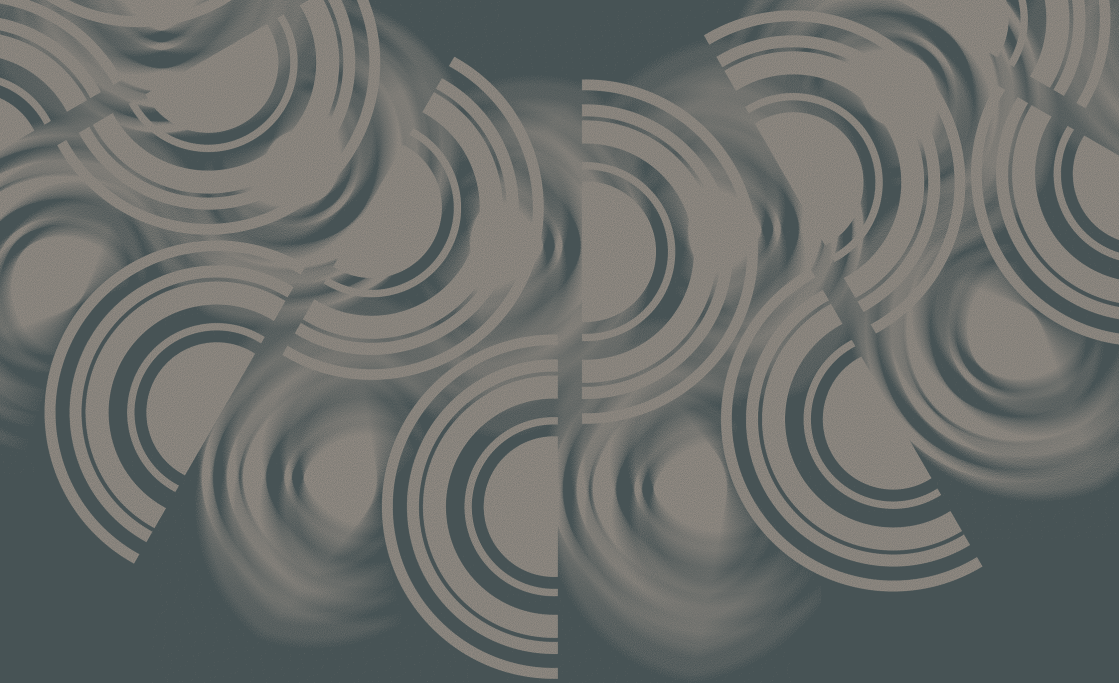
Gyro LGBTQ+ Youth (YPAS)

www.ypas.org.uk/

Trans Without Abuse, Part of MyCWA

www.mycwa.org.uk/transgender-and-non-binary-domestic-abuse-support

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