

Harmful Practices

Guidance for Frontline Professionals

- Harmful practices are **forms of gender-based violence and domestic abuse** rooted in **misuse** of tradition, religion, culture, patriarchal codes of behaviour, perceptions of honour and shame, and heteronormativity.
- They are used by **one or more perpetrators** as an excuse for coercive control, threats, abuse and violence.
- They can be attributed to the **values, rules and beliefs** that individuals, families and community members have upheld for generations.

Does something not feel right?

This could be your **one chance** to uncover hidden harm and offer a lifeline. Harmful practices can affect any family, and **it's important to ask the difficult questions.** Every community deserves to be safe. Use your **professional curiosity** to find out more. On the right are some example questions to use or adapt.

Suggested response to a disclosure: "Thank you for telling me that, it sounds like you're dealing with a lot by yourself [explain next steps according to your safeguarding processes]."

Access the Harmful Practices Contact Guide by visiting www.bit.ly/HPContactGuide or by scanning the QR Code



I've heard a little bit about... from [the school/ police/other], it would be good to hear your point of view about it...

How much are you able to be yourself within your family/what is your sense of freedom like?

What would happen if someone in your family did not want to do what the family expected/asked of them?

Is there anything you are afraid of right now?

I wanted to have a conversation with you because I've noticed...are you able to tell me more about this?

What would happen if your family/community found out that you are [dating someone/ LGBTQ+/ wearing makeup].

FOR IMMEDIATE DANGER PLEASE CALL THE POLICE ON 999