



European Conference

**Honour Related Violence
within a Global Perspective:
Mitigation and Prevention in Europe**

*Stockholm
7-8 October, 2004*



The Problem Addressed by the Conference

Honour Related Violence (HRV) has come to manifest itself more clearly in Europe during the last decade. It includes honour killings, forced marriages, early marriages, and honour-based violence of predominantly males against females. The European Union (EU) has set gender equality as one of its primary goals. Many girls and women today all over Europe are subjected to discrimination and violence within their families and community settings. However, the recognition and the level of awareness about honour related violence vary within the European countries.

The Aim of the Conference

The overall aim is to increase, facilitate and accelerate the exchange of knowledge, experience and policies in the work to prevent the occurrence of honour related violence in Europe. We aim to create multi-sectoral networks to combat the abuse of human rights of mainly girls and women and share experience and knowledge from good practice and theory. The final goal of the conference is to establish policy recommendations, and a European plan of action.

The Organization of the Conference

The conference is a two-day event, covering the different aspects of HRV in Europe. The conference include the participation of a number of renowned key note speakers, experts, and activists specialised in the area of HRV. Plenary sessions, thematic workshops, panel debates and spontaneously organised gatherings will constitute the core of the conference agenda. The focus will shift from the informal level of narratives about HRV to more formal discussions about policies and strategies for European action. A more detailed agenda is attached. A report of the conference will be published and disseminated to all participants.

The conference is part of the two ongoing EU projects:

- *Prevention of Honour Related Violence in Europe*
- *Shehrazad - Combating Violence in the Name of Honour.*

The Organization of the Workshops

Each block of workshops will consist of three different thematic workshops to choose from. Each thematic workshop will have two, or more, short presentations in terms of introduction and as a tool to lead the discussion. In addition to this each workshop will have a moderator and a rapporteur will be selected to report to the concluding plenary. The workshops will be an open discussions forum for the different themes presented. The workshops will be held in three workshop rooms; Hörnan, Thule and Freja.

Prospective Keynote Speakers and Presenters:

Anita Gradin, H.E. Ambassador and former EU commissioner, Sweden • **Evelyne Accad**, academic and author, Lebanon • **Ann Cryer**, MP, UK • **Rana Hussein**, journalist, Jordan • **Dilsa Demirbag-Sten**, debater, Sweden • **Lewis Benjamin**, Metropolitan Police Service, UK • **Nazand Begikhani**, KWAHK, UK • **Kickis Åhré Älgamo**, National Criminal Investigation Department, Sweden • **Corinna Ter-Nedden**, Papatya, Germany • **Elisabeth Fritz**, lawyer, Sweden • **Eduardo Grutsky**, Elektra, Sweden • **Sihem Habchi**, Ni putes ni soumises, France • **Mehrdad Darvishpour**, Stockholm University, Sweden • **Haideh Daragahi**, Association for Women's Rights, Sweden • **Sherin A. Saadallah**, Kvinnoforum, Sweden • **Sevil Bremer**, Save the Children, Sweden • **Valenka Vidal-Molina**, Azam Qarai, Women's Network, Sweden • **Banaz Rashid**, Municipality of Eskilstuna, Sweden • **Bam Björling**, Kvinnoforum, Sweden • **Karolina Vrethem**, Kvinnoforum, Sweden • **Marina Walz-Hildenbrand**, lawyer, Germany • **Natalie Dimitrova**, Roma Public Council - Kupate, Bulgaria • **Jack Briggs**, UK • **Sara Mohammad**, Never Forget Pela and Fadime, Sweden • **Diana Madsen**, CeLi, Denmark • **Hanna Cinthio**, Mecca, Sweden



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- the Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion / Transnational Exchange Programme

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The Workshop Themes

Block I

Status of Honour Related Violence in Europe

This workshop is dedicated to the presentation of the National Status reports from five European countries (Sweden, Spain, UK, Germany and Greece) commissioned by the EU within the framework of the Daphne Programme 2003 project '*Shehrazad: Combating Violence in the Name of Honour*'. The national status reports shall present a general overview of the status of HRV in participating countries, and compare findings.

Honour Related Violence: Parameters of Psychological Support: Best Practice

This workshop focuses on exchanging good practice when it comes to sheltered housing, other forms of housing, psychological support and rehabilitation. There will be three short presentations aimed at providing a basis for discussion.

The Role of the Schools and Educational Institutions: Best Practice

The school setting is in many ways one of the fundamental platforms for addressing issues related to HRV. It is also the first point of contact for many girls and boys seeking support for this problem. It is therefore important that the school is aware of how to approach this complex issue in the right way. The focus of this workshop is to discuss and exchange best practice both when it comes to support and prevention.

Block II

How is Honour Related Violence a European Problem?

Discussing the particular nature of HRV in European setting. Can HRV be defined as a pan-European problem? The presentations and questions raised will help to identify the unique character of HRV in Europe, as compared with other parts of the world e.g. the Middle East. What are the common patterns, and what are the differences? The discussion will allow for a deeper understanding of the complex nature of HRV in Europe today.

Strategies to Combat Honour Related Violence in Europe

Recognising HRV as a European problem shall be the departing point for initiating a discussion on what strategies are possible to combat and mitigate the phenomenon of HRV. European and Middle East specialists will bring their expertise and experience in order to enhance a transparent discussion about solutions, and exchange best practice.

Role of Social Inclusion and Integration in Mitigating Honour Related Violence

It is important to highlight the complex interaction between integration and segregation when it comes to HRV. By stressing this interaction policy-makers and practitioners will be better able to address the HRV problem through preventive measures. The discussion will focus on best practice to address HRV in relation to integration and social inclusion.

Block III

Honour Related Violence: Issues of Criminalization and the Police

In order to more efficiently combat HRV crime it is important to identify the signals that may trigger intervention at an early stage. The workshops will also look at the tools and know-how necessary to investigate HRV crimes. The focus for discussion will be the complexity surrounding crimes in the name of honour and best practice for police and legal system.

A European Plan of Action

The Daphne Programme 2003 project '*Shehrazad: Combating Violence in the Name of Honour*' will draw up a common European plan of action to combat and prevent HRV. The draft plan of action prepared within the project acts as the basic document to be discussed to initiate comments and constructive amendments before its subsequent declaration at the concluding plenary session of the conference.

Preventive Best Practice

To be able to address the issue of HRV in the long-term there is a great need to focus on preventive measures. This workshop focuses on a discussion concerning criteria for best practice and the exchange of knowledge, experience and examples of good practice.



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Program

Thursday, 7th October

8:15-8:30 Registration

9:00 Opening and welcome: Bam Björling

9:05 Keynote speaker H.E. Ambassador Anita Gradin

9:15 Plenary I: HRV, Patriarchy and Human Rights

- HRV and Patriarchy: Evelyne Accad
- HRV and Human Rights: Rana Hussein
- HRV and the EU: Ann Cryer

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Workshop Block I:

Hörnan -Status of HRV in Europe

- Presenters: Spain (Fundacion Mujeres), Germany (Terre des Femmes), UK (Change), Greece (Institute of Equality), Sweden (Kvinnoforum)
- Moderator: Haideh Daragahi: Association for Women's Rights

Thule -HRV: Parameters of Psychosocial Support: Best Practice

- Presenters: Corinna Ter-Nedden: Papatya, Azam Qarai, Valenka Vidal-Molina, Women's Network, Sevil Bremer, Save the Children
- Moderator: Alexia Panayiotou, Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies

Freja -The role of the School and Educational Institutions: Best Practice

- Presenters: Hanna Cinthio, Karolina Vrethem
- Moderator: Cecilia Palmgren, Kvinnoforum

12:30 Lunch Break

13:45 Living with the Threat of HRV: Jack Briggs

14:15 Plenary II: HRV in a European context

- HRV and Tradition: Mehrdad Darvishpour
- HRV and Integration: Dilsa Demirbag-Sten
- European Based Advocacy: Nazand Begikhani, Sihem Habchi

15:30 Coffe Break

16:00 Workshop Block II:

Freja -How is HRV a European Problem?

- Presenters: Terres des Femmes, Fundacion Mujeres, TransAct, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation
- Moderator: Cheryl Toman, Assistant Professor

Hörnan -Strategies to Combat HRV in Europe

- Presenters: Evelyne Accad, Rana Hussein, Ann Cryer
- Moderator: Hanna Cinthio, Mecca

Thule -Role of Social Inclusion and Integration in Mitigating HRV

- Presenters: Mehrdad Darvishpour, Sihem Habchi, Bam Björling, Natalie Dimitrova
- Moderator: Karolina Vrethem, Kvinnoforum

17:30 Conclusion

18:00-19:30 Reception and Cultural Event



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Program

Friday, 8th October

8:30 Registration

9:00 Opening: Anita Gradin

9:05 Cries for Help: Letters from Threatened Girls
read by Sara Mohammed, Never Forget Pela and Fadime Association

9:15 Plenary III: HRV, Legal Aspects and Advocacy
-HRV and Legal aspects: Elisabeth Fritz
-Prevention, Advocacy and Cooperation
within the European Police: Lewis Benjamin
-When the Legal System doesn't Work: Haideh Daragahi

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Workshop Block III:

Freja -HRV: Issues on Criminalization and Police
Presenters: Kickis Áhré Álgamo, Lewis Benjamin, Marina Walz-Hildenbrand
Moderator: Salman Asif, NSY, UK

Thule -A European Plan of Action
Presenters: Sherin A. Saadallah
Moderator: Rahel Volz, Terre des Femmes

Hörnan -Preventive Best Practice
Presenters: Eduardo Grutsky, Banaz Rashid, Diana Madsen
Moderator: Cecilia Palmgren, Kvinnoforum

12:30 Lunch Break

13:45 Panel Debate:

Redefining HRV in Europe: Future Perspectives

Participants: Evelyne Accad, Rana Hussein, Jack Briggs, Mehrdad Darvishpour,
Lewis Benjamin
Moderator: Bam Björling, Kvinnoforum

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Summing up of the Conference Findings moderated by Anita Gradin:

- Workshop rapporteurs report
- Adoption of a Plan of Action for Europe: the Stockholm Declaration

17:00 Future Steps in the European Collaboration to Mitigate and Prevent HRV

The Swedish Minister of Integration, Mona Sahlin, will indicate ways and means forward regarding the issue at stake and provide a link to the Swedish government's international conference on honour related violence in December.

17:15-17:30 Conclusion

A special thanks to Skandia,
for letting us use their venue for our conference!



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Key Note Speakers



Evelyne Accad

Evelyne Accad, born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon, has a B.A. from Anderson College in English Literature (1967), an M.A. in French from Ball State University (1968) and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Indiana University (1973). She is Professor at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana since 1974 in French, Comparative Literature, African Studies, Women Studies, Middle-East Studies, and the Honors Program. In 1978, 1984 and 2002, she taught at the Beirut University College (now LAU), and in the spring 1991, at Northwestern University.

She is a very productive author of many books and publications on the subject of women and the Middle East.

Other activities include writing and composing songs - the music and the lyrics - and performing at various concerts in the U.S. and abroad.



Nazand Begikhani

Nazand Begikhani is from Iraqi Kurdistan and live in exile since 1987. She is graduated from the Sorbonne University with a PH. D on the representation of Kurdish women in European literatures.

Both as researcher and activist, she has been involved actively in gender issues and honour-based violence for the last twelve years.

Together with a group of Kurdish women, she founded in March 2000, the network-based organisation Kurdish Women Action against Honour Killings (KWAHK), that aims to raise awareness about crimes against women inside Kurdish communities in the name of honour.

Nazand has also worked as an expert report writer for a number of organisations and law firms, providing reports on human rights situation faced by Kurdish women. She sits on the board of the Metropolitan's special task force to tackle honour crimes in the UK. On November 2003, she participated in the expert meeting on violence in the name of honour organised by the Swedish Ministry for Democracy and Integration issues.

She is currently working for Amnesty International on a gender-based violence project in Iraq.

Lewis Benjamin

Lewis Benjamin is a Detective Chief Superintendent who heads the Specialist Crime Intelligence Bureau at New Scotland Yard. Lewis is a career detective with extensive experience of murder investigations including Honour related homicide (Pal Dhal 1999). His expertise includes criminal intelligence, counter terrorism, the investigation of robbery and serial sex offences.

Prior to joining the Police service, Lewis successfully pursued an academic career as a research fellow studying cell biology at Swansea University.

He is married to Jayne, and they have two daughters, Amelia aged 11 and Jessica aged 9.

Ann Cryer

Ann Cryer has been the Labour Member of Parliament for Keighley, UK since 1997 (a seat formerly held by her late husband, Bob Cryer). Her son, John, is also the Member of Parliament for Honchurch. The first mother and son MPs in the House of Commons!

Ann was the first MP to raise the issue of forced marriages in the House of Commons and has been a tireless campaigner for the rights of women. Appointed as Rapporteur on Crimes of Honour by the Council of Europe in 2002, Ann's report has been adopted by all the member states. Recently, Ann has campaigned for the introduction in UK law of a specific criminal offence of aiding, abetting and coercing someone into a forced marriage and has advocated changes in UK immigration law along the lines adopted by the Danish Government.

Amidst her Parliamentary duties, Ann is a mother and grandmother of 6.



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Haideh Daragahi

Haideh Daragahi was born and raised in Iran. She got a Ph.D. in English literature in England in the late 70's and then returned to Iran to teach English at the University of Teheran. She was also an activist in the movement against the Shah and an active opponent of oppression of women such as forced marriage and honour killings.

She came to Sweden as a political refugee in 1984 and is now a Swedish citizen. She is an active debater and currently the chair person for the organisation Women's Rights Association, which deals with issues concerning the situation of immigrant women in Sweden.



Mehrdad Darvishpour

Mehrdad Darvishpour, born and raised in Iran, came to Sweden as a political refugee 20 years ago. Mehrdad has a Ph.D. in Sociology. He is working at Stockholm University as a senior teacher and researcher. His dissertation in 2003, focused on immigrant women breaking the pattern.

He is a well-known debater, active in the women's movement as well as the anti-racist and anti-war movement. He has published many articles on the subject and appeared on numerous TV and radio shows as an advocate of these issues.



Dilsa Demirbag-Sten

Dilsa Demirbag-Sten is a well-known activist and debater in the Swedish society. She has participated among other things in the Swedish Government's department committee on integration of immigrants. She writes articles and columns for two of Sweden's major newspapers, Dagens Nyheter and Expressen. She focuses on issues of integration with a gender perspective.

Dilsa feels passionate about making visible the immigrant women's situation in Sweden and has been an active debater regarding honour related violence. She received the Ax:son Johnson award for her fight for gender equality. Dilsa Demirbag-Sten is married and is the mother of two children.



Elisabeth Fritz

Ms. Elisabeth Fritz is a well renowned criminal lawyer that is specialised in serious crime of violence. She is one of the few lawyers in Sweden that is an expert on honour crimes and has represented many immigrant girls and women in criminal court cases. Elisabeth represented the sister of Pela, one of the most well known cases of honour killings in Sweden. Elisabeth has through her work and dedication has led to improvement and increased visibility of the situation of immigrant girls and women that are effected by honour related violence. Elisabeth has received several awards for her work and also been elected "The Career Woman of The Year". Elisabeth has also established a Foundation for women and children that are victims of exposed to violence. Elisabeth Fritz has a Middle Eastern origin but was born and raised in Sweden. She is married and is the mother of two children.



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Sihem Habchi

Sihem Habchi is the vice-presidente of the movement Ni putes ni soumises "Neither whores, nor submissives".

Sihem Habchi was shocked by the death of Sohanne (18-year old), burnt alive in November 2002 in a Paris suburb. Sihem joined the movement Ni Putes Ni Soumises during the march against ghettos and for equality in march 2003. Since then, Sihem became the vice-president of the movement and has campaigned tirelessly for sexual equality and against violence and discrimination.

As a passionate advocate of prevention, Sihem has helped to launch "le guide du Respect" (the guide to Respect), which will educate teenagers about honour crimes, as well as running grass roots community awareness and victim support programmes across France.



Rana Hussein

Rana's background combines journalism for the leading English language daily in Jordan, The Jordan Times, and consultancies and advocacy for women's rights and in the Middle East and Jordan with domestic NGOs and international organizations.

As a journalist she focused on social issues with a special emphasis on violence against women, as well as honour crimes. As a result of her work the Government of Jordan responded by introducing legal changes that suggest tougher punishments for perpetrators of such crimes.

She has earned four international awards for reporting such crimes: The 1995 MEDNEWS prize award for best article "Murder in the name of honour," the Reebok Human Rights Award in 1998, the Human Right's Watch Award in 2000 for being part of the National Jordanian Committee to Eliminate so-called Crimes of Honour and the Ida B. Wells award in 2003 for Bravery in Journalism. The international recognition pushed a group of young Jordanians to contact her wanting to organize grass-root movements to fight this phenomenon.



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