

# Imkaan

## London-based Study on Harmful Practices/Violence Against Women

The Greater London Authority (GLA) recognises that violence against women and children has a significant impact on the health service. It can play an important role in preventing violence against women by intervening early, providing treatment and information, and referring women on to other services.

Imkaan is a national second-tier charity dedicated to the development of the Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) Violence Against Women and Girls sector.

We have been commissioned by the GLA to carry out a study on violence against women with a specific focus on BAMER women and harmful practices. We have been asked to explore forced marriage, female genital mutilation, 'honour-based violence,' other customary beliefs and traditions and their links to violence.

The study will aim to identify and report on harmful practice in London, its prevalence, and a key element of the project will be to identify existing and emerging best practice and gaps in relation to existing services and support.

### How we are carrying out the work

From December 2010 we will be conducting interviews with a range of practitioners, commissioners, funders and policy-makers and co-ordinating focus group discussions with women. We will also be contacting organisations about participating in the snapshot prevalence survey which is due to take place in February 2011.

Task	Aim
Map existing service provision within London	Establish level and types of services available across London. Identify best practice and gaps in current provision.
Interview key practitioners, agencies and commissioners	Review current strategic policy frameworks and approaches to commissioning and funding in this area. Further identify best practice and gaps in current provision.
Hold focus groups with existing and potential service users	To collate views on current levels of support available; needs and gaps to inform the future development of services and interventions.
Map prevalence	To establish the number of women who are experiencing harmful practices across London.
Carry out a one week snapshot survey with key frontline service providers	To make an initial determination of the numbers of women being referred or who approach agencies for support.

## **How participants will benefit from the study**

The evidence gathered from this exercise will form the basis of the foundation to engage partners, local authorities, the voluntary sector and communities in a dialogue on the delivery of effective services and support for BAMER women and children who experience harmful practices, and to support the case for services in this area. In addition, the report will be used to inform policy development on a national, regional and local level and will provide organisations with an opportunity to highlight good practice in terms of the work they deliver.

## **Who to contact about the study**

If you have any queries or if you work in this area and would like to contribute to the project or know anybody who would be interested please ring us to have a chat or email us on:

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