

MANUAL FOR POLICY MAKERS, INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

COMBATING HONOUR CRIMES IN EUROPE

An initiative of the
SURGIR Foundation
www.surgir.ch
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SURGIR 
VIES PERDUES VIES RETROUVÉES

The SURGIR Foundation



Established in 2001 in Lausanne, the SURGIR Foundation* has devoted itself relentlessly to combat customary violence suffered by women throughout the world.

SURGIR has been active in the Middle East and Central Asia, operating through programmes established on the ground abroad (prevention and training) and support networks (assistance provided to women in danger).

The foundation's work includes combating several forms of violence, in particular:

- Forced marriages (first study on their prevalence in Switzerland done in 2006).
- Women burnt alive in India (dowry killings).
- Honour crimes throughout the world.

Honour crimes, also referred to as **crimes committed in the name of honour** or **so-called honour crimes**, represent the most extreme forms of honour-related violence. The SURGIR Foundation denounces these crimes and is mobilised to:

- **Inform**, so as to bring an end to social acceptance of honour crimes in the communities concerned.
- **Take action**, by conducting public-awareness and violence prevention campaigns and providing on the spot assistance in Jordan, Palestine, Israel, India and Switzerland.
- **Organise** rescue operations for women under death threats in their own countries to bring them to Europe when direct assistance is not possible at the local level.
- **Support** the women who are given refuge in Switzerland and in Europe as a whole, until they become independent.
- **Alert** the authorities in Switzerland and in Europe generally, to this phenomenon which is on the rise in Europe.

* Foundation subject to Swiss law with special consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in New York, Geneva and Vienna, since 2005. Active in the UN, the foundation has been a member of the UN Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) since 2008. The chairperson and founder, Jacqueline Thibault, was knighted in the French Government's National Order of the Legion of Honour in December 2010.



EVERY YEAR OVER 5,000 WOMEN
DIE IN THE NAME OF HONOUR.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preamble	6
Acknowledgements	6
Preface	7

1. KILLING IN THE NAME OF HONOUR

1.1. The concept of honour	9
1.2. The value of honour	9
1.3. The origin of honour crimes	10
1.4. Features of the honour crime	10
1.5. The role of women	11
1.6. Affected countries	11
1.7. The figures	11
1.8. Legal and judicial aspects	13

2. MIGRATION

2.1. Migration flows into Europe	15
2.2. Community traditions beyond the borders	15

3. RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES

3.1. Recommendations of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe	17
3.2. Resolutions adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly	20
3.3. From intention to action	21

4. ACTION IN EUROPE

4.1. European countries and honour crimes	23
4.2. The Netherlands	24
4.3. Belgium	26
4.4. The United Kingdom	28
4.5. Sweden	32
4.6. Germany	34
4.7. France	36
4.8. Italy	38
4.9. Switzerland	40

5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE SURGIR FOUNDATION

5.1 Recommendations for the combat against honour crimes	43
5.2 Conclusions	44

6. FOR YOUR INFORMATION

6.1. References	47
6.2. Useful links	47

Preamble

All the information in this manual on honour crimes and their emergence in Europe is the result of documentary research conducted by the SURGIR Foundation in the course of its daily work on the topic, up to the spring of 2011. This database could evolve over time.

This handbook is not the outcome of scientific research, but rather constitutes a pool of current knowledge on the subject. The aim is for the information contained herein to serve as a basis for a better understanding of the situation and to provide a working tool for policy makers, institutions and civil society.

Acknowledgements

The SURGIR Foundation would like to thank all those who have contributed to making this brochure possible, in particular Ms. Victoria Gomez-Tremor, Isabelle & François Foundation, the Emilie Gourd Foundation, Zonta Club of Lausanne, Fédération vaudoise de coopération.

Preface

*“While we are “thinking” and building with the air or with stones in the air,
Or with other things but for later,
THESE WOMEN face death or life.*

Amidst poverty and other ills, far from decreasing, their numbers have, most definitely, increased.

*What bothers me are these symposia, seminars and conferences,
While the women are being burnt alive.*

The meetings are useful, no doubt, but are outdated and no longer relevant; I continue to believe that for these women what matters most is the right here and the right now.

The conferences....

Yes, of course they are “the basis”

The present basis of the future.” (Edmond Kaiser, 1999)

Inspired by these words spoken by Edmond KAISER in 1999, we have been assisting these young women in their own countries; at first lively and happy and then frightened, horrified and then dead. Outrage has catapulted us into the battle to save one, two, three and then dozens and hundreds – on the ground, in their own countries or far away, in a host country, all the while trying to make their exile less burdensome, less depressing and their future more promising.

Today, honour crimes are right outside our very doors. These crimes are on the rise in Europe. It is hoped that this brochure will doubly serve as a warning and as a tool. We would like for those who read it to react, to be convinced decision makers and persevering actors. The examples proposed are avenues to be explored as well as actions that are already being implemented in several European states. The situation demands serious and professional work whereby those involved are willing to share their experience with those who ask; it requires initiatives which bring together minds, wills and sustained effort in favour of life.

The SURGIR Foundation's task as witness is tough and ungrateful. It is not easy to make one's voice heard or to knock at doors that are sometimes slammed shut in your face. Other times, it works. So we press on; after all, it's for a worthy cause.

Jacqueline Thibault
Présidente fondation SURGIR

A black and white close-up profile of a woman's face, looking downwards. She is wearing a light-colored, textured headscarf. A slice of citrus fruit is visible as an earring on her left ear. The background is dark.

**WHEN HONOUR
IS STRONGER THAN
BLOOD TIES.**

1 KILLING IN THE NAME OF HONOUR

Because they have freely chosen their fiancés, because they are suspected of having had a premarital sexual relationship or because their behaviour is considered “immoral”, each year thousands of women are sentenced to death by their families in the name of honour.

1.1. The concept of honour

An honour crime results from the right to life or death that is exercised by men over women. Over and above being a permission to kill, it is a duty to kill when a female member of the family has transgressed the code of conduct dictated by the community. This duty to avenge the honour of the tribe is subject to group pressure. It is a question of saving the honour of the family by shedding the blood of the alleged guilty woman in the sight of and with the knowledge of everyone, as proof of adherence to community codes; it shows that the rules are being respected and that all deviant behaviour will be punished. The whole extended family could be socially excluded as a result of an act of dishonour.

1.2. The value of honour

In the context of honour crimes, the value of honour is essentially linked to a woman's premarital virginity. The family must be able to guarantee the sexual purity of the daughters in the family. However, this purity may be easily tarnished, according to the established codes. There need only be contact with a man unknown to the family for a woman's virginity to be called into question. The same thing applies if the young woman wears Western clothes. It is even worse if she demands her freedom

and refuses to accept an arranged marriage. No proof is necessary to condemn the woman “at fault”. Doubt and rumours are sufficient to condemn her.

1.3. The origin of honour crimes

Honour crimes date back to Babylonian times. In 1750 B.C., the Code of Hammurabi made a woman’s virginity the property of her entire family.

In pre-state societies, in which order was kept by the group, private justice fulfilled the same functions as criminal law. The honour crime was both a preventive and a punitive measure.¹

Although mostly practised in Muslim communities, honour crimes are also committed by Sikhs, Hindus and Christians. It is not mentioned in any religious text.

1.4. Features of honour crime

Honour crimes are different from domestic violence or crimes of passion.

There are specific criteria for identifying honour crimes:

1. The crime is planned.
2. It is used as a threat to control women.
3. The planning and execution of the crime involve several family members, which may include the mother, sisters, brothers, cousins, uncles and grandfathers.
4. The extended family exerts pressure on the nuclear family.
5. The community is involved. It denounces behaviour declared to be reprehensible and sometimes assists the family in locating a woman who may have fled home.
6. The motive for the crime is that the woman has dishonoured her family.
7. More than half the crimes recorded involve extremely violent and barbaric acts, such as decapitation, disembowelment, slitting of the throat, acid attacks, stoning, strangulation with torture, execution by fire, or hacking with an axe.
8. The family and the community as a whole uphold honour crimes. The perpetrators of the crime are seen more as heroes than as criminals by close relatives and friends.
9. The murderer(s) very rarely show(s) remorse. They are rather considered to be victims of the woman’s behaviour. There is the feeling of having accomplished a duty to restore honour to the family.²

¹ The Internet Association for the advancement of human rights, http://www.aidh.org/Femme/Comite_FE/42_belgique.htm

² Are Honor Killings Simply Domestic Violence?, by Phyllis Chesler, Middle East Quarterly, Spring 2009, pp 61-69, <http://meforum.org>.

1.5. The role of women

The mother may participate in the planning of the crime. The act is often carried out by one of her sons, preferably a minor, so that he could benefit from a lighter sentence.

Rana Husseini, Jordanian journalist, describes the role played by women in honour crimes: *“The women generally fall under one of two categories; those who prefer to say nothing and thus become accessories to the crime, because if they speak out they could be killed; and those who really believe that the woman ought to be punished and that this would serve as a lesson for the other women in the family”*.³

1.6. Affected countries

Most honour crimes are traditionally practised in the following countries:

Afghanistan, Albania, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Uzbekistan, Palestine, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and Yemen.

In Europe, the number of honour crimes committed in immigrant communities is rising. These are taking place in England, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland...

1.7. The figures

United Nations special rapporteur, Asma Jahangir (2000) noted that honour crimes were on the rise all over the world.⁴

In 2000, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimated at 5,000 the number of women who had been victims of honour crimes each year throughout the world. But, according to most of the organisations who have been keeping a watchful eye on the situation, the real figure could be three to four times greater.

Unfortunately, there are no objective and reliable statistics or quantitative research,

org/2067/are-honor-killing-simply-domestic-violence

3 IPS interview, New York, March 2010, <http://ipsnorthamerica.net/news.php?idnews=2943>

4 United Nations. 2000. Civil and political rights, including the following issues : Disappearances and summary executions: Report of the special rapporteur, Ms. Asma Jahangir, submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights Resolution 1999/35 (E/CN.4/2000/3). New York: United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

to date. It is very difficult to obtain precise figures. Because of the complexity of the social issues that are intricately tied to honour crimes, most governments tend to mask the figures. They are frequently included in crimes of passion or acts of domestic violence.

There is, furthermore, a large grey area around victims who have disappeared, as well as disguised or forced suicides.

Several estimates do exist, however. In Pakistan, for example, in 2009, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) recorded 604 known cases of women who had been victims of honour crimes. A report from the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) indicated, in 2008, that honour crimes affected around 1,200 to 1,800 women per year in that country.⁵

In Syria, women's organisations reckon that 300 women are victims of honour crimes every year. According to a Ministry of the Interior official, in 2008, honour crimes accounted for 7% of total murders, a percentage which falls short of the reality as many cases are camouflaged.⁶ Human Rights Watch has reported that Syrian women's rights groups investigated at least ten honour crimes in 2010.⁷

Approximately twenty honour crimes are officially registered in Jordan on an annual basis. According to Jordanian forensic information obtained by the SURGIR Foundation, 80% of young girls on whom an autopsy had been performed after the commission of an honour crime were virgins.

In Turkey, a commission of enquiry on honour crimes was set up in 2006 by the National Assembly. The commission counted 332 cases from 2006-2010, mainly in the east of the country. The Ministry of Justice indicated that the number of cases was skyrocketing, increasing from 66 in 2002 to 953 in 2009. In 2010, Human Rights Association was aware of 46 deaths of women who had been victims of crimes committed in the name of honour.⁸

5 Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP, <http://www.hrcp-web.org>) and report of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), on the human rights situation in Pakistan in 2007 and during the first half of 2008.

6 " Syrie: Les meurtres d'honneur Renseignement de l'analyse-pays de l'OSAR (Syria: Honour murders; OSAR country analysis), <http://www.osar.ch> ; Institute for War and Peace Reporting, New Drive to Abolish "Honour Crime" Laws, October 24, 2008: www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4959de25c.html

7 Human Rights Watch (HRW), <http://www.hrw.org>

8 IHD, Turkish association for human rights protection and Istanbul

1.8. Legal and judicial aspects

Honour crimes remain unpunished in many countries. The perpetrators are not or are rarely found guilty by the courts. Sentences, when they are handed down, are most often light ones. There are several explanations for this blameworthy indulgence; inadequate laws, the complicity of judges and public authorities, but also the lack of witnesses as people keep quiet for fear of reprisals.

Under pressure from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, some countries have made certain amendments to their criminal code.

In Pakistan, for example, since 2004, Article 302 of the Criminal Code stipulates that perpetrators of murders committed in the name of honour could be sentenced to death or life imprisonment.

However, according to the FIDH 2008 report, killing a woman for the sake of honour is still widely practised in Pakistan, where the right to revenge and compensation makes crime a private matter and legitimises honour crimes.⁹

In Turkey, the Criminal Code, which was revised in 2005, sets forth in Art. 81.1 that any person who intentionally kills another person must be sentenced to life imprisonment and stipulates in Article 82.1 that, if the crime committed results from the application of a customary tradition, then the perpetrator must be given an aggravated life sentence. However, this has not had much effect in practice.

Lebanon's Criminal Code was amended in 2009 to state that the courts could no longer use reference to the crime of adultery or "illegitimate" sexual relations as an excuse for acquittal; nonetheless, these remain as extenuating circumstances. However, judges may still interpret the term 'excuse' as they wish.

Syria revised Article 548 of its Criminal Code in July 2009 and instituted a sentence of a minimum of two years for honour crimes. The new law, however, continues to accord extenuating circumstances to men who kill their wives on the grounds of a so-called violation of honour.

Article 340 II of Jordan's Criminal Code stipulates that "anyone who surprises his wife or one of his ascendants or descendants or sisters in the act of having illegitimate sexual relations with a man and kills or injures one or both of them will be subject to a reduced sentence". However, on October 12, 2009, Jordan's criminal court sentenced a 21-year-old man to 15 years' imprisonment for having killed his 18-year-old sister.

Women's organisations have observed that the number of so-called suicides committed by women increases significantly when a country has rigid legislation.

9 International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), <http://www.fidh.org>



**TRADITION AND CULTURE
ARE NO EXCUSE
FOR VIOLENCE.**

2 MIGRATION

2.1. Migration flows into Europe

Migration plays a major role in the demography and composition of European societies. One in three migrants lives in Europe.

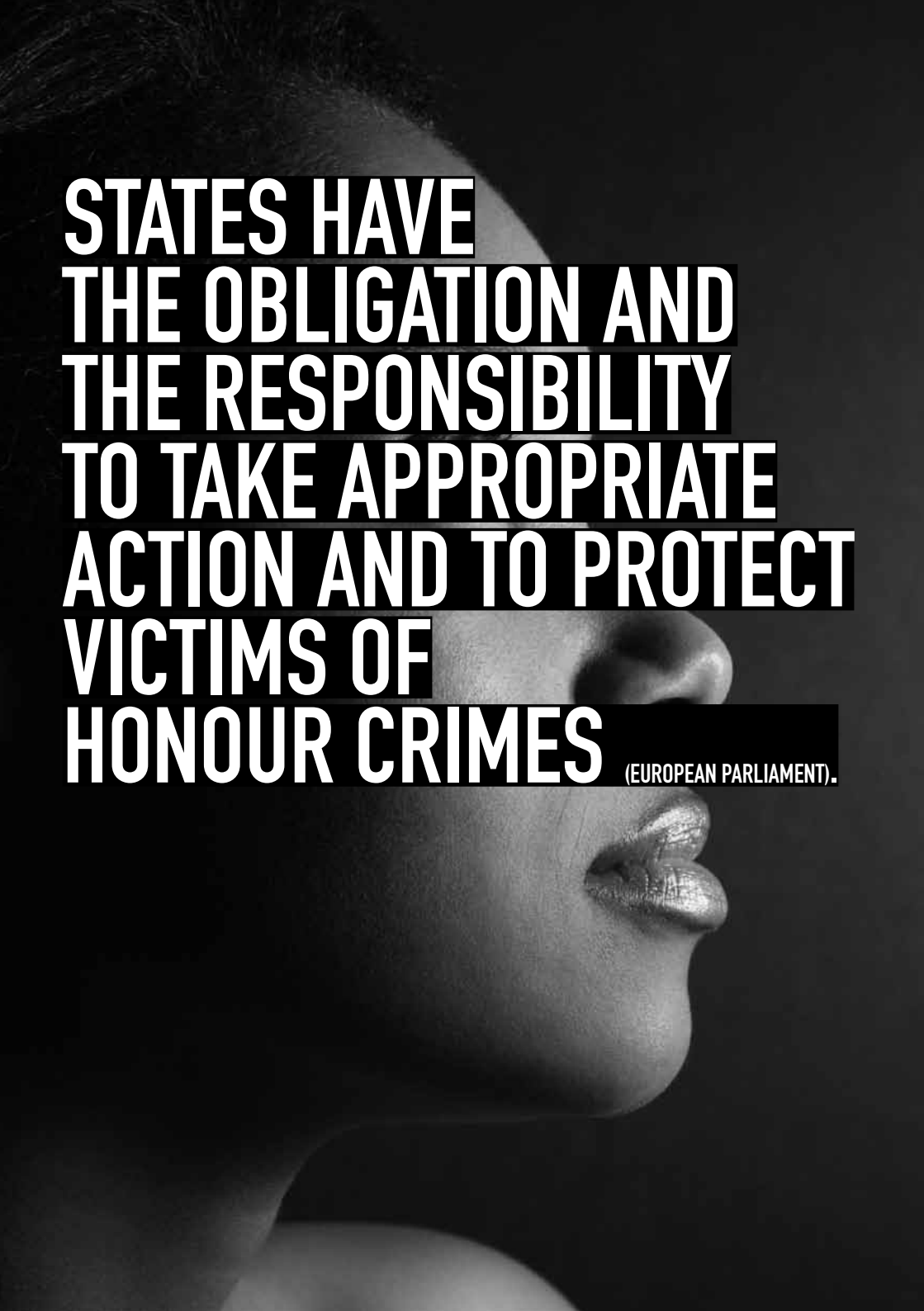
The first cases of honour crimes were recorded in the north west of Europe from the 1960's and 1970's with the arrival of the first set of immigrants from Turkey and Morocco.

The five countries which received the greatest number of asylum applications in 2010 were the United States (55,500), France (47,800), Germany (41,300), Sweden (31,800) and Canada (23,200). That same year, 15,567 applications for asylum were made in Switzerland. (Source UNHCR).

2.2. Community traditions beyond the borders

Once settled in Europe, some migrants seek to strengthen their community traditions. They fear that their children will move away from the model in which they themselves were raised. We know, for example, that a large number of traditionalist families advocate marriage with someone from the same community of origin. Arranged or forced marriage is one of the customs that is most controversial for young migrants of the second, third or fourth generation. Their refusal to comply with the practice could partly explain the increasing number of honour crimes in Europe.¹⁰

10 "Violences faites aux femmes au nom de l'honneur et mariage forcé en Wallonie, acte du colloque du 11 juin 2010" ("Violence perpetrated against women in the name of honour and forced marriage in Wallonia, seminar report of June 11, 2010"), Editions Le Pommier

A black and white profile photograph of a woman's face, looking upwards and to the right. The image is partially obscured by a large text overlay. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font, arranged in seven lines. The first six lines are stacked vertically, and the seventh line is smaller and positioned to the right of the sixth line. The background is dark, and the woman's features are softly lit.

**STATES HAVE
THE OBLIGATION AND
THE RESPONSIBILITY
TO TAKE APPROPRIATE
ACTION AND TO PROTECT
VICTIMS OF
HONOUR CRIMES**

(EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT).

3 RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES

3.1. Recommendations of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe

Honour crimes fall within the ambit of the respect for fundamental human rights.

States have the obligation and responsibility to act and protect victims, including from the risk of domestic violence.

Several international texts recall this responsibility and request Member States, including Switzerland, to put an end to these crimes. Some extracts:

- > In April 2011, the European Parliament urged the Member States “to recognise rape and sexual violence against women, particularly within marriage and intimate informal relationships and/or where committed by male relatives, as a crime in cases where the victim did not give consent, to ensure that such offences result in automatic prosecution, and to reject any reference to cultural, traditional or religious practices as a mitigating factor in cases of violence against women, including so-called ‘crimes of honour’ and female genital mutilation”.¹¹
- > In May 2011, the Council of Europe adopted a Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. This treaty, which also concerns men and children, obliges signatories to criminalise sexual, physical and psychological violence, honour crimes, forced marriages, forced sterilisation and female genital mutilation. A common framework to harmonise practices between countries and prosecution of perpetrators has thus been established. A group of experts – referred to as the GREVIO – is tasked with monitoring the effective implementation of the Convention by the 47 signatory States.

¹¹ European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

- > As of 2003, Council of Europe **Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 1327** on “So-called “honour crimes”” lays down clear principles for Member States. The Resolution calls on Member States to:
 - Amend national immigration law so that a woman exposed to the risk of “honour crimes” may be able to obtain a residence permit in the country.
 - Enforce their legislation more effectively in such a way as to penalise all crimes committed in the name of honour and ensure that allegations of violence and abuse are treated as serious criminal matters.
 - Ensure that such crimes are effectively (and sensitively) investigated and prosecuted.
 - Disallow the invocation of “honour” as a mitigating factor or justification of the crime.
 - Take the necessary measures to implement the laws related to these crimes and provide training for policy makers, the police and the judiciary.
 - Strengthen female presence in the police forces and the judiciary.

- > Council of Europe **Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1881** on the Urgent need to combat so-called “honour crimes” (2009) asks the Committee of Ministers to devise a comprehensive strategy to put a stop to these crimes.

- > Council of Europe **Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 1681** on the Urgent need to combat so-called “honour crimes” (2009) asks Member states to:
 - Draw up national action plans to combat violence against women, provide quality education and training for all.
 - Begin a dialogue with religious authorities in order to facilitate cooperation.
 - Conduct awareness-raising campaigns in each interest group and among the population in general, set up a helpline number.
 - Introduce a database to compile statistics.
 - Teach the police and judiciary about violence committed in the name of so-called “honour”.
 - Support and finance the non-governmental organisations which fight against so-called “honour crimes” and which work with immigrant communities.

- > The **Stockholm Platform for Action to Combat Honour Related Violence in Europe** (2004) makes several recommendations to the European Union and its Member States, including to:
- Strengthen support and rehabilitation mechanisms to victims, including social, health, legal and, educational support, safe housing, shelters, support lines, counselling services and information campaigns.
 - Coordinate the work of European police and other European institutions, particularly on specific legislation to protect European citizens in danger of honour-related crimes in third countries, and to prosecute perpetrators of honour-related crimes who take refuge or carry out such crimes in third countries.
 - Award asylum on the grounds of gender persecution.

3.2. Resolutions adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly

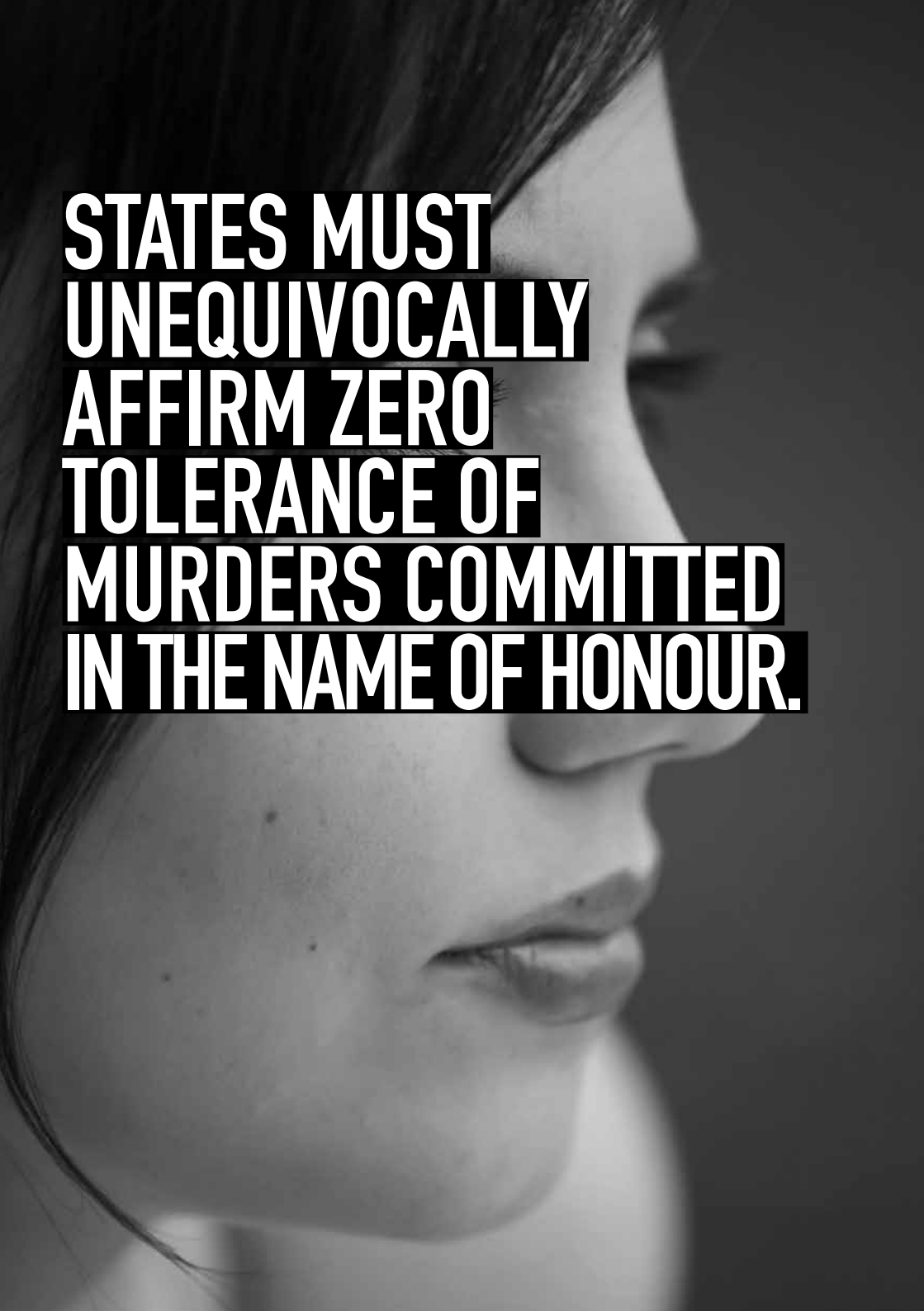
- > In 2001, **Resolution 55/66** on “Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour” calls upon States to:
 - Intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour by using legislative, educational, social and other measures, and to involve, among others, public opinion leaders, educators, religious leaders, chiefs, traditional leaders and the media in awareness-raising campaigns.
 - Encourage, support and implement measures aimed at increasing the knowledge and the understanding of the causes and consequences of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, among police personnel, judicial workers and health personnel.
 - Establish, strengthen or facilitate support services by, for example, providing actual and potential victims with adequate protection, safe shelter, counselling services, legal aid, rehabilitation and reintegration into society.
 - Create, strengthen or facilitate institutional mechanisms so that victims and others can report such crimes in a safe and confidential environment.
 - Gather and disseminate statistical information on crimes committed in the name of honour.
- > Resolutions **57/179** (2003) on “Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour” and **59/165** (2005) on “Working towards the elimination of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour” call upon Member States to introduce similar measures to eliminate violence committed in the name of honour. They also call on countries to:
 - Investigate promptly and thoroughly cases of crimes against women committed in the name of honour.
 - Document cases and effectively prosecute and punish the perpetrators.
 - Raise awareness about the responsibility of men to promote gender equality and bring about change in attitudes to eliminate gender stereotypes.
 - Support the work of civil society and strengthen cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
 - Encourage the media to engage in awareness-raising campaigns on the subject.

- > In its **General Comment No. 28** on the “Equality of rights between men and women (article 3)”, the Human Rights Committee notes that:
 - “The commission of so-called “honour crimes” which remain unpunished constitutes a serious violation of the [International] Covenant [on Civil and Political Rights], in particular Articles 6, 14 and 26”¹²

3.3. From intention to action

What has happened following these important resolutions and conventions signed by Member States, including Switzerland? The European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the United Nations, since 2001, have demonstrated that honour crimes are a serious problem that should not be ignored. Good intentions are expressed in these texts, but it is urgent for those intentions to be converted into action to ensure fulfilment of the commitments undertaken.

12 ONU Femmes, <http://www.endvawnow.org>

A black and white, close-up profile photograph of a woman's face, looking downwards. The image is soft-focused, with the woman's features partially obscured by the bold text overlay. Her hair is dark and falls over her forehead. The background is a dark, out-of-focus grey.

**STATES MUST
UNEQUIVOCALLY
AFFIRM ZERO
TOLERANCE OF
MURDERS COMMITTED
IN THE NAME OF HONOUR.**

4 ACTION IN EUROPE

4.1. European countries and honour crimes

Europe has not been spared from honour crimes.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in its 2009 report, emphasized that: *“In Western countries, there used to be a tendency to believe that so-called “honour crimes” occurred exclusively in certain Asian countries, such as Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, some African countries and the Middle East. However, over the last twenty years, there is no denying that so-called “honour crimes” have become increasingly common in Europe, particularly in France, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom and Turkey”.*¹³

The report, which proposes “measures to protect victims and prevent so-called honour crimes”, asks States, which have not yet done so, to “draw up and put into effect national action plans to combat violence against women, including violence committed in the name of so-called “honour””.

Such action plans already exist in Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Sweden. However, in 2011, only the United Kingdom and the Netherlands have a comprehensive prevention and repression policy in place.

¹³ M. John Austin, “The urgent need to combat so-called “honour crimes””, Draft report of the, Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, AS/Ega (2009), p.3

4.2. The Netherlands

Migration

■ In 2010, the main migrant communities were Turks (2.4% of the population) and Moroccans (2.1%). Almost 90% of the Turks and Moroccans residing in the Netherlands choose spouses from their countries of origin. According to the Ministry of Justice, cases of honour-related violence occur more frequently among Turks (43%), Afghans, Kosovars, Iraqis, Moroccans, Colombians and West Indians.¹⁴

The figures

- According to police estimates, 14 murders were committed in the name of honour in 2007, 11 in 2008 and 13 in 2009.
- The recorded cases of violence possibly related to honour (threats, blows) stood at 493 in 2007, 553 in 2008 and 445 in 2009. The percentage of ordinary unreported crimes was 25%, whereas for honour crimes it was 75%.

General policy

- The Netherlands has a comprehensive protection and repression policy. The Ministries of Justice, Health and Integration established a pilot programme on honour-related violence to operate from 2007 to 2011. The projects focus on the police, places of safety for women, schools and migrant organisations.¹⁵
- Measures aimed at increasing collaboration with ethnic minority organisations have been developed since 2004. According to the Dutch government, the term “honour crimes” is not sufficiently inclusive; the expression “honour-related violence” offers a wider range of possibilities of descriptions and approaches. This definition is not so much legal in its basis as it is related to criminological and sociological aspects (since many forms of honour-related violence are not punishable in the strictest legal sense).

Legislation

- There is no specific article in the Criminal Code relating to this subject.

¹⁴ Statistics Netherlands, <http://www.cbs.nl>

¹⁵ Rijksoverheid, <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/agressie-en-geweld/eergerelateerd-geweld/aanpak-eergerelateerd-geweld>

The police

- The Ministry of Justice is involved in decisions taken by the police.
- The police have stressed the importance of differentiating between honour-related violence and domestic violence.
- Since 2004, the MEP (multi-ethnic police work), a pilot unit of the police force, has been tasked with collecting data on honour-related violence.
- In 2005, a joint protocol was set up between the police, the Public Prosecution Service (OM) and the organisation, Women's Shelter in order to improve detection of honour crimes and formulate an effective approach to this type of violence.
- An honour crimes coordinator is assigned to each police unit. The Haaglanden police review complaints recorded by the main police station, on a daily basis. Since 2011, honour crimes have been indicated by markers (red flags) in computer registries. A "checklist" is used by police officers to differentiate honour crimes from other types of crime.¹⁶
- According to the police, cooperation with NGOs and migrant organisations is essential for introducing measures and to engage in dialogue with the communities concerned.

Protection

- The Ministry of Justice, in association with Women's Shelter and the organisation Fier Frise, has developed a shelters pilot project especially for women who have been threatened with or are victims of honour crimes.

Prevention and awareness raising

- A national honour crimes centre was set up in 2007, using the MEP's database. The centre (Landelijk Expertisecentrum eer gerelateerd geweld, LEC ECG), comprising a multidisciplinary team of about twelve specialists, is a unit of the Dutch police forces. It is a resource centre for the police, the Public Ministry, the Immigration and Naturalisation Office and shelters for battered women.

16 Landelijk Expertise Centrum, http://www.huiselijkgeweld.nl/doc/huwelijkswang/checklis_eergerelateerd_geweld_v32_haaglanden.doc

4.3. Belgium

Migration

■ In 2007, the main migrant communities were Moroccans (79,858) and Turks (39,532). According to the police, recorded honour crimes had been committed by families from Morocco, Algeria, Kosovo, Albania, Turkey (especially from eastern Turkey), Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Assyrian Christians from Pakistan were involved in two cases.

The figures

■ The federal police have unofficially estimated that 17 honour crimes or attempts at honour crimes had been identified between 2004 and 2008. The police unit “Violence Committed against Persons” noted that honour crimes were often only “the tip of the iceberg”. In most cases, the crime is preceded by several years of violent treatment (grievous bodily harm). These acts usually take place in “native communities under strong internal social pressure and in a prevailing atmosphere of fear.” Due to the closed nature of these groups, the police say that there may be a significant “dark number” (meaning, a grey area) of crimes.

General policy

- In reference to the work being carried out in the Netherlands, the government has considered that the terms “honour vengeance” and “honour crime” were too narrow. Consequently, the wider concept of “honour-related violence” has been adopted.
- The National Plan of Action against Violence (Plan III, 2010-2014) was placed under the responsibility of the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men and of the Ministry of Justice. The plan outlines the preventive measures to be taken in order to gain a more informed understanding of the problem of “honour-related violence”.¹⁷

Legislation

- The justice system believes it now has a sufficient body of designations and punishments to intervene effectively at the criminal level.

¹⁷ <http://www.milquet.belgium.be>

Liège: un père menace de tuer sa fille si elle n'épouse pas son cousin

Un Liégeois a été déféré mardi au parquet de Liège pour des menaces de mort et tentative de mariage forcé. Il était à la recherche de sa fille majeure qui avait quitté le domicile paternel pour aller vivre avec son ami. La jeune fille avait été menacée par son père à plusieurs reprises. Le père a trouvé l'adresse où elle s'était réfugiée avec son ami et s'y est rendu lundi soir avec un autre homme. Au domicile de sa fille, le père

Prevention and awareness raising

- Two pilot projects (Malines, 2008, for the Dutch-speaking part, and Verviers, 2009, for the French-speaking part) were developed on the ground, with the support of the central office of the Federal Judiciary Police, the Federal Public Department of Justice and the Criminal Policy Unit. The purpose of the projects is to improve general knowledge about the subject so as to be able to make appropriate decisions.¹⁸
- In the context of the pilot projects, four “active training” sessions were organised in the police districts of Malines and Verviers to pinpoint the problems connected to honour-related violence. The aim of the sessions was to frame a suitable case approach and formulate a local policy.¹⁹

¹⁸ <http://www.politiquecriminelle.be> and “Violences faites aux femmes au nom de l'honneur et mariage forcés en Wallonie, acte du colloque du 11 juin 2010” (“Violence committed against women in the name of honour and forced marriage in Wallonia, seminar report of June 11, 2010”), Editions Le Pommier

¹⁹ Written question n° 4-5721 from Sabine de Bethune (CD&V) of December 7, 2009 to the Minister of Justice, <http://www.senate.be>

4.4. The United Kingdom

Migration

■ Immigration in the United Kingdom has grown exponentially since 1997. In 2010, 215,000 new non-European immigrants were registered, mostly from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Somalia and Iraq.²⁰

The figures

- The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) of London estimates that about a dozen honour crimes are committed each year in Great Britain.
- On average, 500 persons contact the police on a yearly basis to report their fear of being forced to marry or of being subject to honour-related violence.
- Most honour crimes take place, for the most part, within communities of South Asian origin, as well as in Muslim communities from Pakistan and Bangladesh. They occur to a lesser degree among Hindus and Sikhs.²¹

General policy

- The United Kingdom is the only country, along with the Netherlands, to have crafted a comprehensive policy on honour crimes.
- The Home Office and the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office are implementing measures to combat honour crimes. Government and police cells have been set up to tackle the problem.²²
- The Government has adopted the following definition of honour crimes:
 - “Honour-based violence is a crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community”. It is stipulated that the word “honour” is systematically placed between inverted commas or preceded by the expression “so called” so as to indicate that the crimes have nothing to do with honour.

²⁰ Office for National Statistics <http://www.statistics.gov.uk> and the Home Office website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications>

²¹ “Crimes of the Community: Honour-Based Violence in the UK”, James Brandon and Salam Hafez, Centre for Social Cohesion, 2008, p.39

²² Home Office, <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

■ In 2007, a specialised unit on violence against women and girls (Association of Chief Police Officers Honour Based Violence Working Group) was created by the Crown Prosecution Service. The purpose of the unit is to ensure that every individual involved in an honour-related act of violence is investigated. The unit also deals with extradition requests to prevent crimes from remaining unpunished should the perpetrators flee the country. It keeps track of and prosecutes the families abroad in cases where the victims are forcibly taken back to their country of origin to be executed there.²³



Legislation

■ The Crown Prosecution Service has drafted several pieces of legislation on domestic violence, including honour crimes.

Government strategy

■ In 2008, the Crown Prosecution Service formulated a strategy to combat efficiently honour-related violence.

■ The strategy defines several objectives:

- To identify the scale of honour-based violence across police departments.
- To ensure that victims or potential victims can report their fears or actual violence committed against them in an atmosphere of confidence and confidentiality (a victim should never be ignored under the pretext that honour crimes do not fall within the remit of the police service).
- To provide easy access to counselling and protection centres (safe houses, hotline).

²³ The Crown Prosecution Service, <http://www.cps.gov.uk>

- The execution of this strategy requires the creation of specific tools:
 - To produce a high-quality resource base that is accessible to the police, social and health services (paper and digital guidebooks, courses, conferences, websites).
 - To develop a pool of experts to provide support to prosecutors and departments dealing with this type of violence (strategic and operational assistance).
 - Research possible cases of honour-based violence in the archives of the criminal justice system (including cases of so-called suicide). In February 2010, for example, the case of Tulay Goren (who disappeared in 1999 at the age of 15) was re-examined by the inspectors of the Crown Prosecution Service as an honour-based violence case. This led to Tulay Goren's father being sentenced to life imprisonment.
- Three points need to be underscored:
 - Be attentive to the risk of reprisals being directed at the victims and witnesses by setting up a long-term witness protection programme.
 - Emphasize the fact that honour-based violence is illegal and is a human rights violation which will not be tolerated in any form.
 - Communicate the fact that no major world religion supports, encourages or condones acts of violence such as murders, physical or sexual assault, rape or abuse

The police

- Following the injunctions of the Crown Prosecution Service, the police introduced several different types of measures:
 - Establishment of 32 special units ("Community Safety Units") in Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) stations.
 - Since 2009, all police officers have been trained to identify signs of honour-related violence.
 - Setting up of a website for young people aged 11-16 years. The site stresses the need to alert the police to any cases of honour-related violence. It contains all the necessary information to obtain assistance, contact numbers and safe houses, etc.,²⁴
 - Active collaboration with 400 schools: 330 specialised police officers ("Safer Schools Officers" and "Police Community Support Officers") are at the service of students in schools. They are listed by name on the website. (www.safe.met.police.uk).
 - As of summer 2011, a new national police database will allow for honour-related crimes and forced marriages to be designated under the acronym HBV (Honour-Based Violence).

²⁴ <http://www.safe.met.police.uk>

Protection

- The police are working directly with women's associations specialised in honour-related violence (Karma Nirvana, Southall Black Sisters, IKWRO). These associations have emergency telephone numbers for women who may be in danger or in difficulty.

Prevention

- In May 2011, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight launched a vast awareness-raising campaign on honour-related violence. Within the framework of this campaign, mostly aimed at protecting children before the summer holidays (when they are often sent to their countries of origin and never return to school), police officers work along with teachers, school administrations, school nurses and general practitioners to identify and handle suspicious cases.²⁵

- The Home Office has introduced several initiatives under its preventive mission:

- 2008-2009: Awareness-raising campaign on the ground, with the creation of synergies between local migrant communities and health, police, education and justice system representatives and associations.

- 2010: Publication of the national plan of action entitled "Call to End Violence against Women and Girls".²⁶

- 2011: Feasibility study on documentation to be distributed to new immigrants with explanations of their rights in the United Kingdom and references for help services.

²⁵ www.hampshire.police.uk et www.islandpulse.co.uk

²⁶ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls>

4.5. Sweden

Migration

■ Sweden has a population of 9.4 million inhabitants. Some 100,000 people migrated to Sweden in 2010, principally from Somalia (6,800) and Iraq (4,500). Currently, 135,000 political refugees who were granted asylum during the conflicts in the former Yugoslav Republics still reside in the country. Sweden has a large Muslim community. Unofficially, the migrant populations most affected by honour-related crimes are from the Iraqi, Kurdish, Turkish and Lebanese communities. Some cases have been seen to occur among Christians and Muslims.

The figures

- A first case of an honour crime committed in 1996 (a 15-year-old girl was killed by her brother and her cousin), then another in 2002 (an immigrant woman was killed by her father because she had a Swedish boyfriend) placed the government on the alert. In 2004, the Swedish government estimated that 1,500-2,000 girls and young women had been victims of honour-related violence and oppression and that 10%-15% of them were in need of a safe shelter.
- The police have observed several cases of young women who have mysteriously fallen from their balconies. These cases appear to be suicides on the face of it.

General policy

- In 2008, Nyamko Sabuni, Minister for Integration and Gender Equality, declared that combating honour-related violence was a matter of priority.
- Each community handles the problem at the local level (welfare system).

Government strategy

- The Swedish government has invested 1 million euro, from 2007 to 2010, in the fight against honour crimes.
- The Ministry for Integration and Gender Equality has prepared an action plan to combat violence against women, including honour crimes.²⁷ The plan of action comprises six measures:

1. Increased protection and support for victims.
2. Emphasis on prevention (facilitated procedures for victims in the social, medical

²⁷ Government Offices of Sweden,

and legal spheres, specific measures to be implemented in schools, training of the police).

3. Improved legal standards (non acceptance of reasons relating the crimes to religion and tradition, proper treatment of victims at all stages of the procedure).

4. Targeted measures against the perpetrators of violence (develop programmes of activities).

5. Increased cooperation and coordination between public and private services.

6. Promotion of knowledge and competences (evaluate initiatives that have been implemented, draw examples from other countries which are active in that area).

- In designing its action plan, the Swedish government adopted a global victim-centred approach based on scientific studies.

The police

- The Swedish police and the Swedish Prosecution Authority, which report to the Ministry of Justice, have formulated specific procedures to tackle the problem of honour crimes. The term “honour-related crime” is used in the context of these procedures and in providing information to victims.

Prevention

- The government has provided specific training on the subject of honour crimes for social workers.

- A new project entitled “Love is free” is in the process of being developed. The aim is to bring together, in each school for one week, social workers, police officers, teachers, trainers and NGOs (Save the Children) to inform students and potential victims of their rights and about existing support structures.

Awareness raising

- An international conference on honour crimes was held in the Swedish Parliament on January 20 2010. Sara Mohammad, director of an organisation providing assistance to honour crime victims in Sweden, highlighted the need for a coherent integration policy. She also expressed her concern about cultural relativism in Europe and the spread of political Islam on the continent. Jasvinder Sanghera, president of the United Kingdom-based association Karma Nirvana and herself a survivor of an honour crime, demonstrated how honour-related violence must be tackled through education.²⁸

4.6. Germany

Migration

■ According to associations based in Germany, the communities most affected by honour crimes are, for the most part, Turkish because of their size (approximately 2.5 million Turks), but also include Yazidi Kurds, Kosovars, Afghans, Pakistanis, Lebanese and Maghrebis.²⁹ The number of Muslims is estimated at four million.³⁰

The figures

■ The Berlin-based association Papatya counted the total number of honour crimes committed in the country German newspaper articles as a source. From 1996 to 2007, 88 cases of honour crimes were mentioned, with 72 deaths and 20 attempts that did not lead to death. The results of the research have been confirmed by the German police.³¹

■ The association ehrenmord.de has also researched into honour crimes. It counted 30 in 2009.³²

14 MONDE

«CRIMES D'HONNEUR» Après le meurtre d'une jeune Kurde par ses frères

L'Allemagne horrifiée

BERLIN Hatun Sürücü, 23 ans, a refusé de rester en Turquie, où sa famille, vivant à Berlin, l'a mariée de force à l'âge de 15 ans. Elle a été abattue à un arrêt de bus

L'exécution en pleine rue d'une jeune Kurde de Turquie, début février à Berlin, a suscité ces dernières semaines en Allemagne la prise de conscience d'un phénomène longtemps sous-estimé : les « crimes d'honneur ».

Le 7 février, Hatun Sürücü, 23 ans, était assassinée, à un arrêt de bus, de plusieurs balles dans la tête. Ses trois frères, soupçonnés d'avoir commis le crime pour laver l'honneur de la famille, ont été écroués peu après. Si l'enquête est encore le-

ouverte du directeur d'un lycée voisin a, il est vrai, jeté de l'huile sur le feu, quand ce dernier a révélé que certains de ses élèves avaient estimé qu'Hatun n'avait eu que ce qu'elle méritait, étant donné qu'elle « vivait comme une Allemande ».

« Ces élèves détruisent la paix de l'établissement, a condamné Volker Steffens dans sa lettre ouverte, quand ils approuvent le meurtre, quand ils affirment que la jeune femme s'était comportée comme une Allemande, et quand ils provoquent et offensent leurs camarades parce qu'ils ne portent pas le foulard ou vivent autrement ».

« Combien de femmes doivent encore mourir pour que cette société se réveille enfin ? »

Nekla Kelec, sociologue

Mariée de force à 15 ans, à un

de tels actes suscitent la réprobation.

« Combien de femmes doivent encore mourir pour que cette société se réveille enfin ? » s'interroge dans une tribune du quotidien *Der Tagesspiegel* la sociologue Nekla Kelec, qui vient de publier « La mariée étrangère. Un rapport de l'intérieur de la vie turque en Allemagne », un témoignage sur les mariages arrangés et les problèmes d'intégration qui leur sont liés.

Le problème est grave, souligne l'avocate turque berlinoise Seyran Ates : « Mes collègues et amies en Turquie se sentent souvent moins menacées qu'en Allemagne, où nous avons affaire à des communautés extrêmement conservatrices et fermées. Alors qu'en Turquie, où les tabous ont déjà été brisés, ».



VICTIME Le corps de Nuran Haliloglu, 14 ans, étranglée avec un fil électrique, a été retrouvé dans une forêt. « »

MON EXP

Apparition

ROME Le silence depuis une semaine, à Rome, après la confirmation d'un ancien truchement

Koutchuk

KIEV L'ancien Leonid Koutchouk a été condamné à la peine de mort pour l'assassinat de Goncharenko, même a été

Janet J

porte p

SANTA demande à pêcher un depuis neurt que sa famille ou actuelle grammée p leur suicide

29 Terre des Femmes, <http://www.ehrverbrechen.de>

30 Facts about Germany, <http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de>

31 Papatya, <http://www.papatya.org>

32 <http://www.ehrenmord.de>

General policy

- Certain “Länder” (federal states) are more active than others. The state of Hessen, for example, has published a comprehensive brochure for professionals on forced marriages and honour crimes.³³

Awareness raising and prevention

- Women’s rights associations are extremely active and denounce honour-related violence (Mädchenhaus Bielefeld, Yasemin, Agisra e.V, Hennamond e.V., Terre des Femmes...). In particular, they organise awareness-raising courses on honour crimes for professionals, social workers and teachers.

33 <http://www.kultusministerium.hessen.de>

4.7. France

Migration

■ In 2009, practically half of the foreigners granted permanent resident status in France were from Algeria (19,961) or from Morocco (19,501), followed immediately by Turkish nationals (6,221).³⁴

The figures

■ Since 1993, about a dozen cases of honour crimes have been highlighted by the media. According to unofficial information obtained from women's associations, the populations most affected by honour crimes are Indians, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans, Kurds and Turks.

L'EXPRESS.fr
TOUS LES JOURS, TOUTE L'INFO

Un crime d'honneur derrière le meurtre d'une jeune fille dans la banlieue lyonnaise?



Le meurtre de Fatima, 22 ans, à Oullins, dans la banlieue lyonnaise, met de nouveau en lumière la difficulté des conditions de vie des femmes dans certains quartiers populaires. Le frère de la victime est le principal suspect.

Elles étaient une centaine, ce vendredi 10 juillet, à marcher en la mémoire de leur amie Fatima

General policy

■ “Combating violence against women” was declared the top priority national cause by Prime Minister François Fillon in 2010. A section of the plan drafted by the government and entitled “Combating Violence Committed against Women”, can be applied to honour crimes.³⁵

³⁴ Ministry of the Interior, Overseas Departments, Local Authorities and Immigration <http://www.immigration.gouv.fr>

³⁵ <http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement/la-loi-sur-les-violences-faites-aux-femmes>

Protection

- In 2010, the Ministry of Solidarity and Social Cohesion created a website for women who are victims of violence, as well as a special emergency number.³⁶

Awareness raising

- On March 8, 2010, the delegation on women's rights to the Senate, chaired by Michèle André, organised a seminar on forced marriages and so-called honour crimes at the Palais du Luxembourg to “analyse practices that have been entrenched in certain traditional societies and to show how these practices have begun to spread in France and across Europe.” The seminar report, including the SURGIR Foundation's intervention on the specificities of honour crimes, has been posted in its entirety on the Senate's website.³⁷

³⁶ Ministry of Solidarity and Social Cohesion, <http://www.stop-violences-femmes.gouv.fr>.

³⁷ Senate, <http://www.senat.fr/rap/r09-408/r09-40813.html>

4.8. Italy

Migration

■ At the beginning of 2011, 7.5% of the total Italian population was made up of foreigners (Istat figures). Research conducted at the start of 2008 by the ISMU Foundation revealed that there were approximately 650,000 illegal immigrants in the country. The migrant community is mostly made up of Albanians, Moroccans, Chinese nationals and Ukrainians, with a rise in the number of immigrants from India, Bangladesh, Tunisia and Senegal.

Italie: Crime d'honneur

• Ennaharonline/ AFP



16 September, 2009 06:14:00
Un Marocain vivant dans le nord de l'Italie, opposé à la relation de sa fille musulmane de 18 ans avec un Italien catholique de 31 ans, a tué mardi la jeune femme et blessé le jeune homme, rapporte mercredi la presse italienne.

Dafani El Ketawi, 45 ans et aide-cuisinier dans la région de Pordenone, dans le nord-est de l'Italie, a intercepté la voiture du jeune Italien, Massimo De Biasio, dans laquelle se trouvait également sa fille, Sanaa.

"Les deux jeunes ont été attaqués immédiatement. Massimo de Biasio n'a

The figures

■ Around a dozen honour crimes have been reported in the Italian media. In October 2010, for example, in Modena, a 20-year-old Pakistani woman and her 46-year-old mother opposed the arranged marriage planned for the young woman; the father and the son killed the mother with a steel bar and seriously injured the young woman.

General policy

■ There is still no government policy specifically dealing with honour crimes.

■ In February 2010, Souad Sbai, an Italian deputy of Moroccan origin and president of ACMID (Associazione della Comunità Marocchina in Italia delle Donne) tabled a proposal to abolish recourse to extenuating circumstances of a cultural nature in court cases involving honour crimes. She proposed for there to be an amendment of Articles 133 and 62bis of the Italian Criminal Code which currently provide for reduced sentences for crimes committed within the context of cultural traditions.³⁸

la Repubblica.it

Cronaca

IL CASO

Consiglia

Sanaa, condannato il padre 30 anni nel processo d'appello

Pena ridotta su richiesta del Procuratore Generale per El Ketaoui Dafani, genitore della ragazza uccisa perché conviveva con un italiano. Il giudicato in continuazione con l'aggressione nei confronti del fidanzato



Sanaa, la ragazza uccisa perché conviveva con un italiano

TRIESTE - La Corte d'assise d'Appello di Trieste ha condannato a 30 anni Dafani, padre della diciottenne Sanaa, uccisa il 15 settembre 2009 a Mor (Pordenone). In primo grado, l'uomo era stato condannato all'ergastolo. Il giudicante ha accolto la richiesta del Procuratore Generale, che aveva chiesto di pena. A Dafani, che in primo grado era stato giudicato con rito abbreviato di Pordenone, il collegio ha riconosciuto la continuazione con il reato di confronti del fidanzato, Massimo De Biasio, aggredito assieme a Sanaa.

"Giustizia è fatta", ha commentato il ministro per le Pari Opportunità Marco. Il padre assassino di Sanaa è stato condannato ad una pena severa e giusto che la giustizia sia in maniera netta dalla parte delle vittime e un processo come quello appena concluso dimostra che le giovani immigrate si possono fidare dei loro genitori e riprendersi la libertà che qui viene loro riconosciuta, devono farlo prima che

4.9. Switzerland

Migration

■ In 2009, foreigners made up 22% of the population resident in Switzerland. There were 15,567 applications for asylum in 2010, with applicants coming mainly from Eritrea, Sri Lanka, Serbia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Georgia, Kosovo, Turkey, Syria, Algeria and Ghana. In 2009, there were some 450,000 Muslims in Switzerland, mainly originating from Turkey and Kosovo.

The figures

■ Several cases of honour crimes have been reported in the media, including one which took place on May 10, 2010 in the immigrant quarter of Zurich-Höngg. A Pakistani man hacked his young 16-year daughter to death because she wanted to distance herself from the religious intransigence of her father. He subsequently went and turned himself in to the police. Then, on January 27, 2011, a Turkish woman residing in Bern was sentenced to three years and six months in prison for having encouraged the family of her daughter-in-law to carry out a crime of honour against the young woman.

General policy

- There is still no preventive or repressive government policy to combat honour crimes.
- The Federal Council is not disposed to passing legislation on honour crimes.
- In the Swiss Criminal Code, Article 18.1, under “Crimes and Offences” refers to “A state of excusable necessity” and states that if the perpetrator commits a punishable act to protect himself or someone else from imminent and unavoidable danger which is a threat to life, bodily integrity, freedom, honour, his inheritance or other essential assets, the judge may reduce the sentence if the threatened asset could have been reasonably requested of him”. Article 48.2a.1 stipulates that “the judge may reduce the sentence if the perpetrator has acted on honourable grounds”.
- Measures specific to combating violence perpetrated against women are mainly taken at the cantonal level, which is where competence in this sphere lies. However, the Confederation supports initiatives of this nature introduced by cantons (counties).

- In the chapter devoted to Switzerland in Amnesty International's annual report for 2009 on violence against women and girls, it is stated that:
- "Legislation introduced in 2007 to protect victims of domestic violence was inadequately implemented in some cantons. There was insufficient specialist training for police and no training for judges. Protection and counselling centres in some cantons were underfunded".³⁹

Protection


■ Officially, asylum is granted to persons who have been subject to a forced marriage or who have been threatened with an honour crime abroad. There is still no specialised unit in Switzerland to receive such young girls. In Geneva, the shelter "Au cœur des Grottes" receives women in difficulty and victims of violence. In Zurich, the protection and support centre, Mädchen Haus, receives young women up to 20 years of age.

■ The *SURGIR* Foundation receives people who have been threatened with honour crimes in their country of origin, when they cannot be assisted in their own countries. These are single women, women with children or young couples. The foundation organises their transfer and provides them, upon arrival, with accommodation, financial assistance, psychological counselling and language lessons in the local language. Later, the foundation helps them to earn their independence through gainful employment. *SURGIR* has rescued 24 people from the Middle East and Central Asia since it was created in 2001. Formerly, dozens of young women were rescued from their situations by the founder of the foundation during her time spent with the organisation, Terre des Hommes.

Awareness raising

■ On April 4, 2009, a seminar entitled "Violence Committed against Women in the Name of Honour" was organised in Geneva by the association, "Araignées Artisanes de Paix", in collaboration with the Human Rights Office of the State of Geneva. The film "Tuée pour l'honneur" (Killed in the Name of Honour) by Giawdat Sofi was shown on that occasion.

39 Amnesty International, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/switzerland/report-2009>

A black and white, high-contrast photograph showing the lower half of two people's faces in profile. They are positioned close together, looking downwards. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights on their skin and hair. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

**PROVIDE EFFECTIVE
LONG-TERM SUPPORT
FOR THE REHABILITATION
OF SURVIVORS.**

5 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE SURGIR FOUNDATION

5.1. Recommendations for the combat against honour crimes

Prevention Measures

- Formulate a global policy to prevent and combat honour crimes.
- Inform the public that, in accordance with the rule of law, individuals cannot carry out justice themselves.
- Train police officers to take swift action when they receive an emergency call reporting an honour crime or where there is strong suspicion as to its existence.
- Train social workers in the various facets of honour crimes.

Victim Protection

- Encourage women who feel threatened to go to existing shelters for women who have been the victims of violence. It is essential for two professionals per shelter to be trained specifically in the various aspects of honour crimes. Managers must be able to contact the police immediately once they have gained knowledge of the threat of an honour crime.
- Have safe houses in several cantons the location of which is kept secret, each equipped with a professional specialised in honour crimes.
- Be vigilant: reprisals could be taken against anyone who assists persons who have threatened.
- Set up the necessary mechanisms to make it possible for a victim threatened with an honour crime to change cantons and identity and to be adequately supported in long-term rehabilitation, if the woman wishes to remain in Switzerland.
- Establish and maintain contact with the services dealing with honour crimes in

Europe, the United States and Canada and identify the possibilities of asylum in these countries, where necessary.

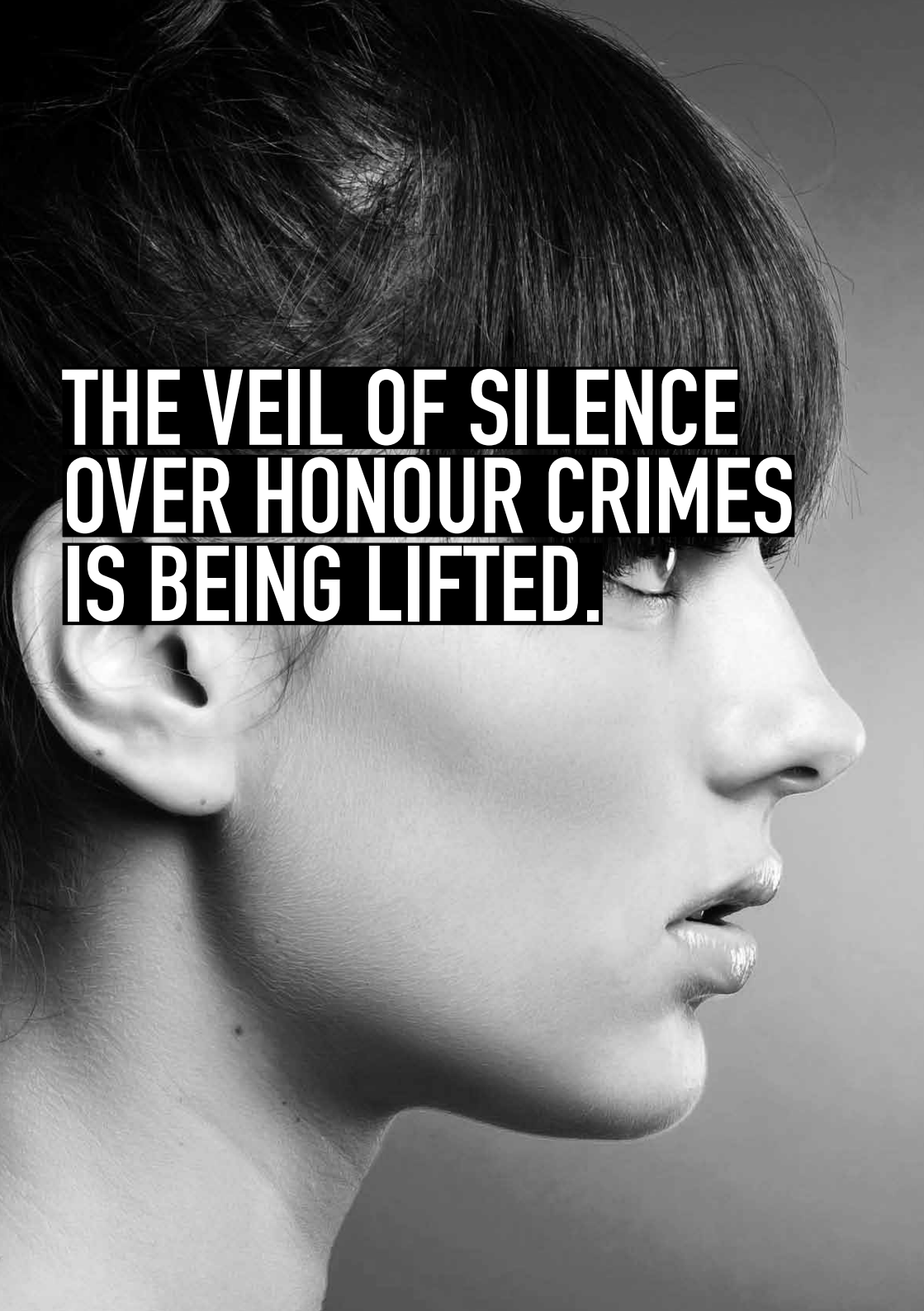
- Establish and maintain contact with women's associations in migrants' countries of origin.

Swiss legislation

- Remove the mention of honour as a reason for reducing a sentence, as specified in Articles 18.1 and 48.2a.1 of the Criminal Code.
- Prosecute, without indulgence, persons who are guilty of honour crimes, in accordance with Article 112 of the Swiss Criminal Code.

5.2 Conclusions

- We are convinced that, unless something is done to arrest it, the number of crimes committed in the name of honour will rise in Europe over the years to come. This prediction is based on the following objective observation: the growth of ethnic and cultural diversity, created by migration flows, is inevitable in Western societies. Europe will, therefore, be increasingly confronted with this phenomenon. Furthermore, it is feared that the problem could be used by some political groups to stigmatise the communities concerned
- Indulgence of and/or leniency towards communities practising honour crimes would indicate subscription to, tolerance of or, at worst, encouragement of communitarian laws.
- Honour crimes are an unacceptable practice. No society with respect for human rights should tolerate them. Following the examples of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden and Belgium, the other European countries should, as a matter of urgency, take cognisance of this injustice and mobilise themselves to prevent any increase in the numbers of murders of this nature. No European country should be a zone of impunity for honour crimes.



**THE VEIL OF SILENCE
OVER HONOUR CRIMES
IS BEING LIFTED.**

6 FOR YOUR INFORMATION

6.1. References

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- “Souad, Burned Alive”, Document, Ed. Oh Editions, 2003
- “Violences faites aux femmes au nom de l'honneur et mariages forcés en Wallonie, actes du colloque du 11 juin 2010”, (“Violence committed against women in the name of honour and forced marriage in Wallonia, seminar report of June 11, 2010”, Anne-Marie Lizin and Reine Marcelis, Les Editions de l'Arbre, 2010
- “Your honour or your life? An exploration of honour cases for police officers and other professionals”, Dr. Janine Janssen, Ed. Stapel & De Koning, 2009

6.2. Useful links

- Eurostat, Statistical Office of the European Union, www.epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu
- International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), www.fidh.org
- SURGIR Foundation, www.surgir.ch
- Human Rights Watch, www.hrw.org
- Ligue du Droit International des Femmes, www.ldif.asso.fr
- Information Platform humanrights.ch, www.humanrights.ch
- European Parliament, www.europarl.europa.eu
- International references on honour crimes, www.stophonourkillings.com
- Remembrance for victims of honour killings, www.memini.co
- UN Women, www.unwomen.org
- UNIFEM, www.unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/facts
- Website of the Metropolitan Police Service for the protection of young people, www.safe.met.police.uk
- Support services for victims of honour-based abuse and forced marriage, www.karmanirvana.org.uk
- Support services for women who are victims of violence, www.southallblacksisters.org.uk
- Women's rights organisation, www.ikwro.org.uk
- Organization dealing with women's rights, www.frauenrechte.de
- Amnesty International, www.amnesty.org

Notes

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