



## **HONOR KILLING**

[www.girlsrights.org](http://www.girlsrights.org)

Honor killings are acts of vengeance, usually death, most often committed by male family members against female family members, who are held to have brought dishonor upon the family. A girl can be targeted by her family for a variety of reasons, including: refusing to enter into an arranged marriage, being the victim of a sexual assault, seeking a divorce—even from an abusive husband—or (allegedly) committing adultery. The mere perception that a girl has behaved in a way that "dishonors" her family is sufficient to trigger an attack on her life.

### **Statistical Information**

Estimates - are widely believed to be severely underestimated.

To give a few examples of what is known . . .

- Ka-Mer, a Turkish Women's Group claims that "According to governmental statistics, (in Turkey) at least 200 die in the name of honor each year, this number constitutes half of all murders in Turkey...In Istanbul alone, at least one person dies as a result of honor killing weekly."
- In March of 2012, The International Herald Tribune reported that: "At least 943 Pakistani women and girls were murdered last year for allegedly defaming their family's honour."

### **Good Practices to End Honor Killing**

- Social media such as Facebook and Twitter can be used to raise awareness about this practice.
- Educate everyone to the fact that there is no Honor in Killing!
- Health Care practitioners, social workers, and school staffs are often in a unique position to recognize domestic violence and encourage women to seek refuge before this happens.
- Make domestic violence shelters more readily available.
- Hold up other examples, such as foot binding, where cultural practices have changed and societies have benefited from such changed outcomes

### **What Actions Should be Taken to Stop Honor Killing**

#### **Governments**

- The provisions of CRC, CEDAW and other relevant protocols against violence must be enforced.

- Education about existing laws needs to be wide-spread because even where there are laws against Honor Killings they are not always enforced.
- Train police, judiciary and first responders to recognize this crime and enforce existing legislation against it.

## NGOs and individuals

- Appeal to religious leaders within communities where Honor Killing is occurring.
- Enlist the support of mothers and grandmothers and other community elders.
- Educate girls about their human rights and engage in activities to raise their self-esteem.
- Express your moral outrage! So-called “Honor Killings” are the worst form of domestic violence and need to be named as such.
- Recruit celebrity endorsements for a campaign against Honor Killing

## Resources

### UN Documents

- <http://www.unwomen.org/?s=honour+killing> lists several resources and examples of responses to honor killing
- “Honor Killings and the Quest for Justice” from the Expert Group Meeting on good practices in legislation to address harmful practices against women is available at [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw\\_legislation\\_2009/Expert%20Paper%20EGMGPLHP%20Aisha%20Gill%20revised\\_.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw_legislation_2009/Expert%20Paper%20EGMGPLHP%20Aisha%20Gill%20revised_.pdf)
- “Domestic Violence and Killing in the Name of Honour,” by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, on International Women’s Day 8 March 2010 is at [http://www.un.org/en/events/women/iwd/2010/documents/HCHR\\_womenday\\_2010\\_statement.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/events/women/iwd/2010/documents/HCHR_womenday_2010_statement.pdf)

### Other Resources

- *When We Leave* is a 2010 German film which highlights the problem of honor killings by depicting the drama of a Turkish family living in Germany.
- Information about the related crime of Acid Violence can be found at: <http://www.acidsurvivors.org/index.html>  
<http://www.acidviolence.org/index.php/acid-violence/>

