

Prevention, Not Prediction:
The Regina Police Service's
Response to Honour-Based Violence



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Video



Definitions:

Honour-Based Violence:

- Is a crime or incident that has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community.

Patriarchy:

- Refers to a male's dominant attitude, discrimination and disrespect of the opposite gender.


Honour Killings:

- Premeditated killings of family members, primarily women, who are thought to have brought shame or dishonour to their family by engaging in certain behaviours considered unacceptable (e.g. pre-marital or extra-marital sexual relationships, or relationships with boys not approved by the family).



Cultural Ideology:



- Culture versus Religion
- Misconception that violence that is culturally driven by traditions and norms, is related to religion (specifically Islam).
- Honour based offenses happen among all different religions including Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists.



ISLAM AND HONOR KILLINGS

"Whoever **KILLS** a **BELIEVER** intentionally, their reward will be **HELL**, to abide therein **FOREVER**, and the **WRATH** and the **CURSE** of **ALLAH** are upon them, and a **DREADFUL PENALTY** is prepared for them."

(4:93)

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Patriarchal Societies:

Patriarchal Power:

- Refers to a male's dominant attitude, discrimination and disrespect of the opposite gender.

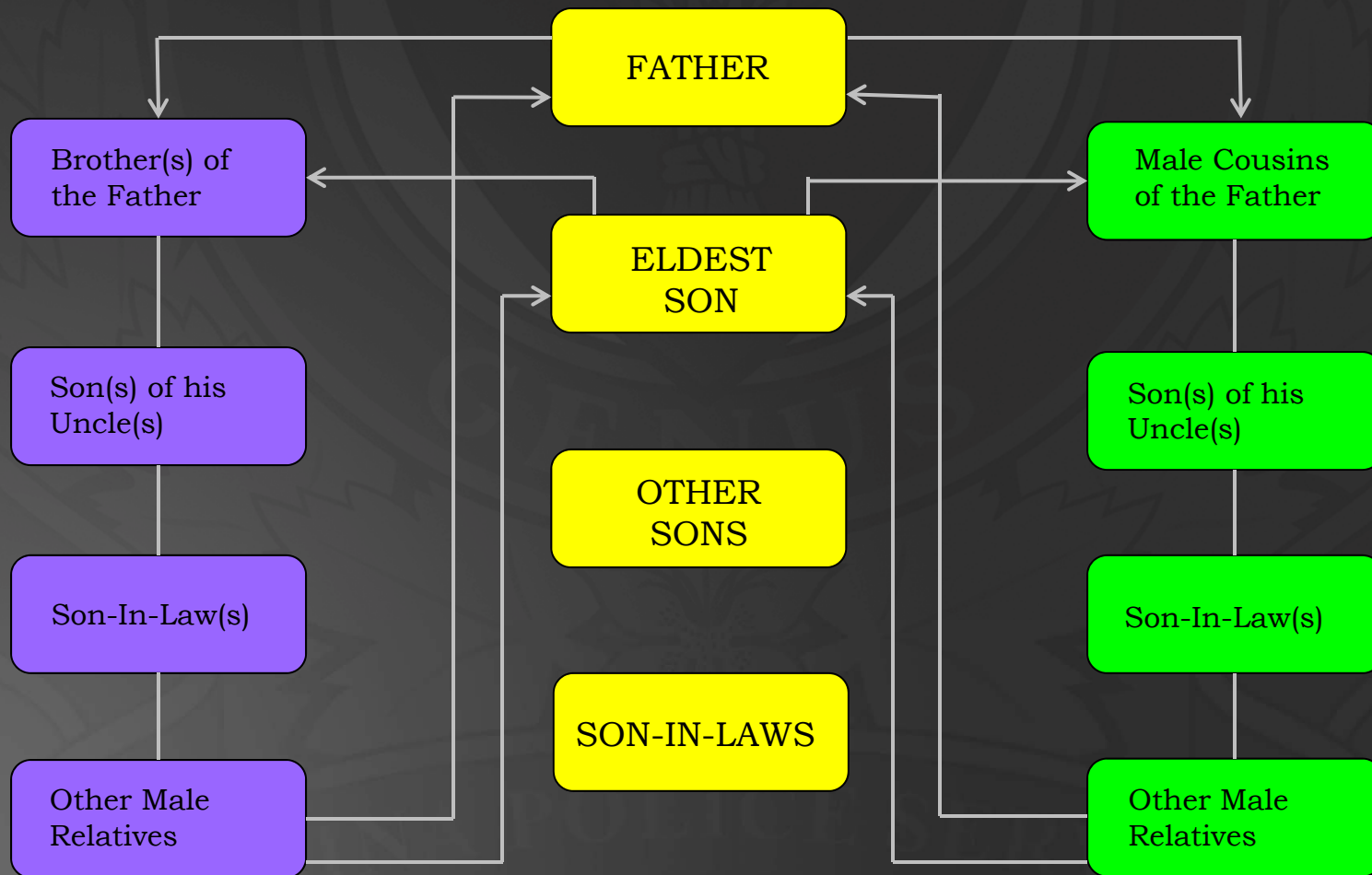
Traditional Cultural Context:

- Cultural traditions and norms are instilled in children from an early age;
- Each family member contributes to the collective. Failure to fulfill your role creates family instability; and
- Patriarchal power structure.

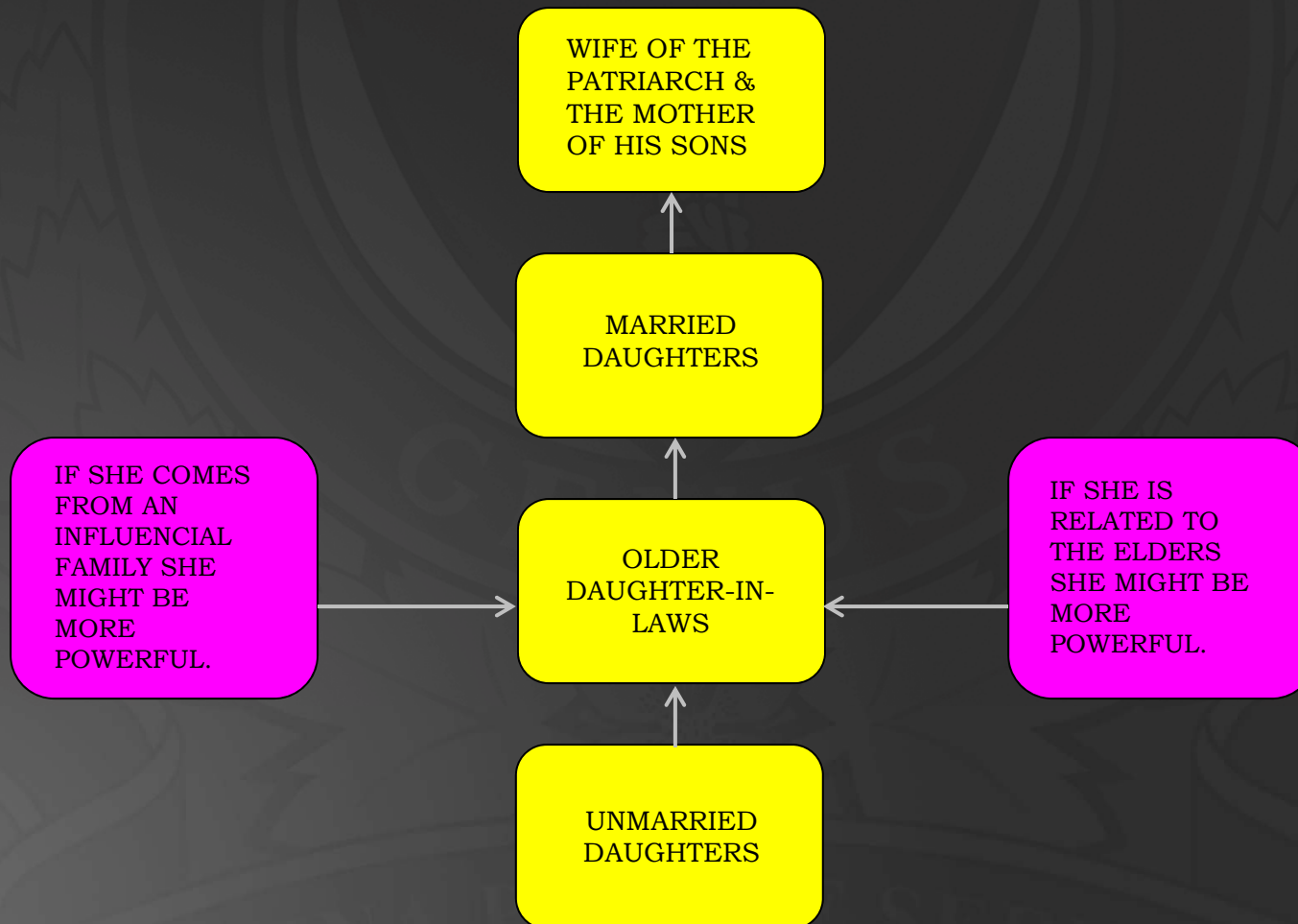


Patriarchal Family Structure

Male Power Structure:



Patriarchal Family Structure Female Power Structure:



Confronting the Phenomenon of Honour-Based Violence in Canada:

- Increase in immigration from South Asian and Middle Eastern countries;
- Understand and educate the forms of honour-based violence;
- National Household Survey, 2011:
 - 6.8 million foreign-born people;
 - 20.6% of the population.



Canada's *Known* Cases:

**Number of Cases and Victims of Honour Crimes
Recorded in Canada:**

1954-1983	3 Cases	3 Victims
1991-2000	4 Cases	7 Victims
2001-2010	10 Cases	16 Victims
2011-2012	3 Cases	3 Victims
Total	20 Cases	29 Victims
Since 1991	17 Cases	26 Victims



Aqsa Parvez:

Date of Crime:	December 2007
Age of Victim:	16
Number of Aggressor(s):	2
Place of Residence:	Mississauga, Ontario
Country of Origin:	Pakistan
Circumstances:	Strangled in the family home by her father and brother.



Amandeep Atwal:

Date of Crime:	July 30, 2003
Age of Victim:	17
Number of Aggressor(s):	1
Place of Residence:	Vancouver, British Columbia
Country of Origin:	India (Sikh)
Circumstances:	Stabbed multiple times by her father while sitting in the family car.



The Shafia Case:

Date of Crime:	June 30, 2009
Number of Victims:	4
Age of Victims:	19, 17, 13 and 50
Number of Aggressor(s):	3
Place of Residence:	Montréal, Quebec (crime committed in Kingston, Ontario)
Country of Origin:	Afghanistan
Circumstances:	Victims were discovered in a car submerged at the bottom of a canal.



Video



After the Shafia Case...

- Shield of Athena Family Services
- Federally Funded Project to Combat Honour-Based Violence in High Risk Communities.
- Bill S-7 Received Royal Assent and became law in the Summer of 2015



Regina Police Service:

Mission: Public Safety First

- Police Officers: 396
- Special Constables: 4
- Civilian Members: 164
- Detention Special Constables: 4
- Total Force: 568

Cultural & Community Diversity Unit

- Established in 1983
- Consists of one Sergeant, two Constables, and one Civilian member.
- Mission: Building closer relationships with all ethnic, religious and diverse communities in Regina.
- Goal: Increase the knowledge and awareness among all Regina Police Service employees on the cultural diversity of our community.



Starting Point...

1. What Are Other Law Enforcement Agencies Experiences with Newcomers?
2. Discussed Findings with RPS Family Services Unit at The Regina Children's Justice Centre; and
3. Contacted Community Organizations, Community Partnering Agencies, and Academics.



What We Found...

Cultural Ideology:

- Culturally Driven Violence is a growing problem amongst Canada's newcomer population; and
- Women in newcomer homes are at the highest prevalence of domestic violence.

Misconceptions at First Sight:

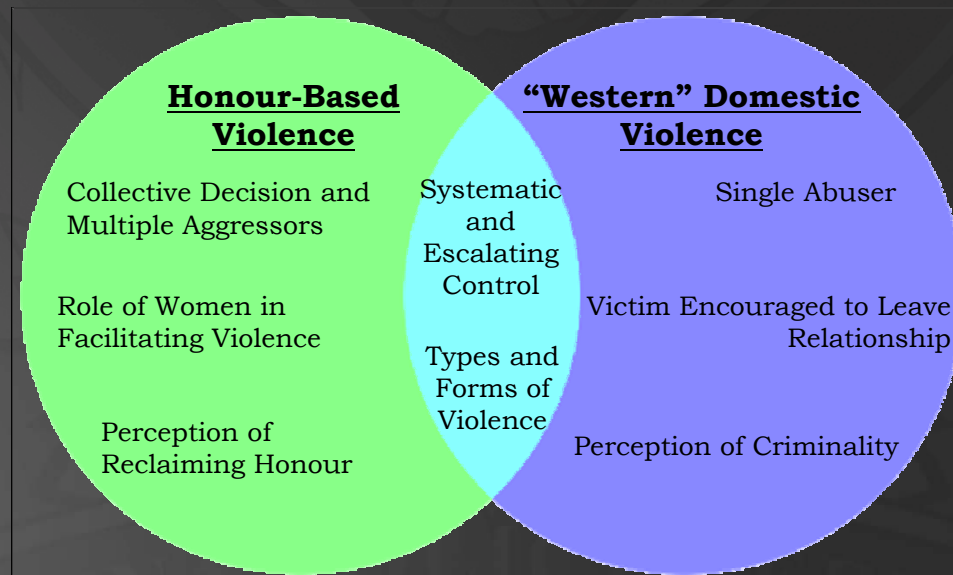
- Misconception that violence is driven by religion; and
- Mistaken identity based on attire. Sikhs are often mistaken for Muslims



What We Found...

Distinctions Between Honour-Based Violence and Other Forms of Family Violence:

- Involvement of the community and the obligation of social norms;
- Premeditation – family meeting; and
- Individual and Collective Dimension.



The Steps We Have Taken:

Regina Police Service Response:

Recommendations for Police Response:

1. Building Expertise Among Police Officers and Staff is Essential;
2. Training New and Veteran Police Officers;
3. Multi-Agency Partnerships; and
4. Risk-Assessment Checklist



Education & Training for Regina Police Service Members:

1. **Building Expertise Among Police Officers and Staff is ESSENTIAL:**

- The Cultural and Community Diversity Unit;
 - National Workshops
 - Community Members

2. **Training New and Veteran Police Officers:**

- Mandatory Diversity Training for ALL members of the Regina Police Service every 2 years;
- Cultural Relations Course for in-service members at the Saskatchewan Police College;
- Recruits at the Saskatchewan Police College; and
- Police Preparation Program at local educational institute.

Emphasis of the “One Chance Rule” in all training.

One Chance Rule

You may only have **one chance** to speak to a potential victim of forced marriage and, therefore, only **one chance** to save a life.



Education & Training Components:

- Culture and Religion;
- An Understanding of Honour and Honour-Based Violence;
- Forced Marriages, Child Marriages and Female Genital Mutilation;
- Indicators and Distinctive Features of HBV; and
- Building Strategies and Safety Planning, Vulnerabilities, Response - The One Chance Rule.

Every day, three people seek help in relation to forced marriage.

Everyone should have the freedom to choose.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) *noun*

The practice of partially or totally removing the external genitalia of girls and young women for non-medical reasons. Commonly leads to infection, infertility and even death. Mostly carried out between infancy and age 15.



Multi-Agency Partnerships:

- Regina Open Door Society
- Regina Multicultural Council
- Regina Immigrant Women Centre
- Family Services Regina
- Islamic Association of Saskatchewan - Regina
- Fox Valley Counseling Services



Risk Assessment Checklist:

The Regina Police Service Honour-Based Violence and Forced Marriage Risk Assessment Checklist:

- Tool for officers to use when at a call for service.
- United Kingdom: DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment, and Honour-Based Violence) Checklist.
- Sweden: Patriarch (Checklist for the Assessment of Risk for Patriarchal Violence with Honour as a Motive).
- Includes:
 - Source of Information;
 - Context and Description of Current Situation;
 - Indicators of Risk; and a
 - Attached Reference Page
- Protocols, Policies and Procedures.





Honour-Based Violence and Forced Marriage Risk Assessment Checklist

Source of Information:

- Interview with victim/complainant Interview with perpetrator/suspect Other

Context and Description of the Current Situation:

Case Description:

- Forced Marriage Early/Unwanted Pregnancy 'Unwanted' Behaviour
 'Unsuitable' Relationship Strengthen Family Links Female Genital Mutilation
 Protecting Cultural Ideals Immigration Status

Context:

- Are the victim(s) and/or perpetrator(s) from a traditional patriarchal society? Yes No
(A family, community, or society based on the system in which men have authority over women and children).
- Is there a visualization of punishment for norm/rule or traditional value breaking? Yes No
- Are other service agencies involved with the family? Yes No
- Has there been prior occurrences reported to the police? Yes No

Indicators of Risk:

For further information please see attached reference page.

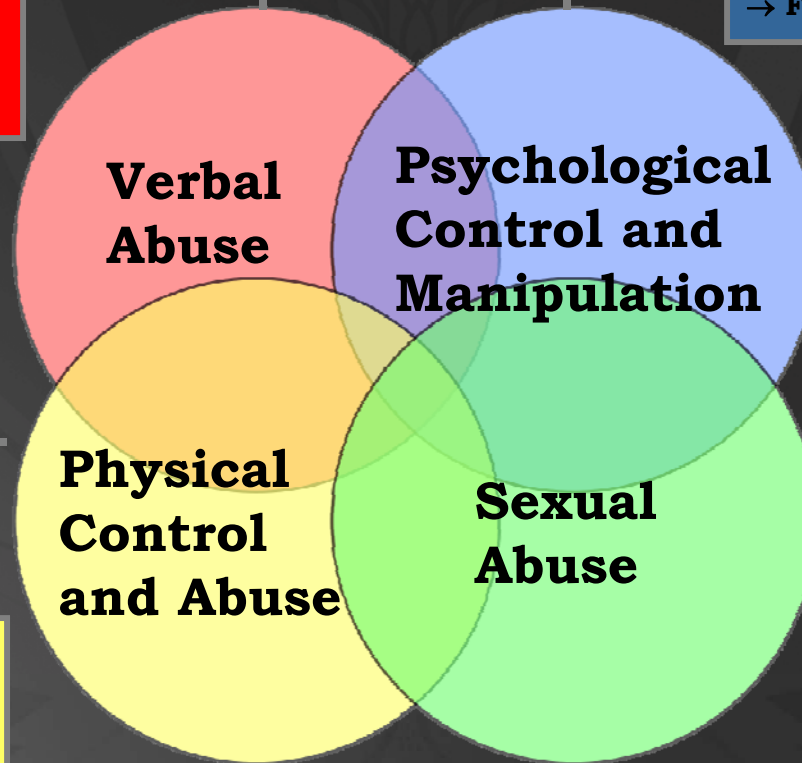
1. Violent acts – physical or sexual assault;	
2. Threat(s) of physical harm;	
3. Escalation of physical harm or threat(s) of physical harm;	
4. Criminal harassment;	
5. Isolation and dangerous living situations;	
6. Immense fear of perpetrator, family and extended family members;	
7. Has been or is being forced into an unwanted marriage, and there is a family history of forced marriage;	
8. Pressure to travel abroad for an arranged marriage, resulting in a forced marriage;	
9. Previously committed violence within the family to protect the family's honour;	
10. Conveyed strong, traditional patriarchal beliefs and values that encourage, justify and/or control aggressive behaviour;	
11. Country of origin is known for its patriarchal society that includes discriminatory laws etc.;	
12. Victim displays specific behaviours including: self-harm; in, or has been in, a disapproved premarital relationship; contradictory behaviour and attitude towards patriarch and/or family; self-blame; belief the family member(s) actions are justified;	
13. Insufficient access to resources – limited knowledge of the law and their rights;	
14. A family's lack of willingness to integrate into Canadian culture;	
15. Patriarch has or displays psychosocial problems (employment problems, mental health problems, and/or substance abuse problems; and	
16. Marital situation (separation or divorce) and custody situation or threats of taking the children away.	



Scale of Honour-Based Violence

- Financial Control;
- Emotional Blackmail;
- Social Isolation;
- Control over Personal Effects; and
- Forced Marriage.

- Intimidation & Denigration;
- Harassment & Emotional Manipulation;
- Threats of Deportation; and
- Ostracism by the Family or Community.



- Extreme Supervision;
- Physical Discipline;
- Physical Assault; and
- Forced Marriage.

- Sexual Assault;
- Sexual Assault as Punishment;
- Female Genital Mutilation; and
- Forced Marriage.



All of these forms of violence may individually or concurrently lead to an **“HONOUR KILLING”**

Continue with Preventative Measures...

- ❑ Follow-up Training for ALL Members;
 - ❑ Comprehensive Training for Members in Family Services, Major Crimes, Missing Persons and School Resource Officers.
- ❑ Community Prevention;
 - ❑ Education:
 - ❑ Facilitate Training for Community Partners and Community Groups and Associations.
 - ❑ Partnerships:
 - ❑ Build, Strengthen and Maintain Partnerships with Community Organizations, Groups and Associations.



Saving A Life, Living Life:

- Achieved by:
 - Ensuring an effective response
 - Raising awareness
 - Building trust and confidence
 - Sharing responsibility with communities and other partners

About Prevention, Not Prediction



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Questions?

