



THE DIALOGUE BOX

BLOGS ANALYSIS NEWS

HONOUR CRIMES

Information Booklet



1. What are honour crimes?

"Honour" crime involves violence, including murder, committed by people who want to defend the reputation of their family or community.

- Source: *Honour Based Violence Network*

2. What is an honour killing?

An 'honour' killing is the most extreme form of HBV where the supposed offender against family 'honour' is killed to restore the 'honour' which has supposedly been lost through her behaviour. An 'honour' killing is the most extreme form of violence which may be expressed as a final resort; however there are other lesser responses, such as forcing marriage or other forms of violence which may also be expressed.

- Source: *Honour Based Violence Network*

3. What are the common reasons behind honour crimes?

- Inter-caste marriages
- Inter-religious marriages
- Choice of sexual/marital partner
- Sexuality
- General conformity to the family and community's culture and expectations.

4. How do we define honour?

Honour can be considered as the public or group recognition of moral worth and is imposed and sanctioned by an external social system based on adherence to set norms, codes or behaviours accepted or encouraged.

- Source: *The Wire*

5. Do crime against LGBTQI+ fall within “honour crimes”?

Yes crimes against LGBTQI+ community if committed with the motivation to defend, avenge or cleanse family/community honour will amount to “honour crimes”.

6. Do hate crimes fall within “honour crimes”?

Some scholars like Mark Walters and Ritabrata Roy of University of Sussex argue that hate crimes committed with the goal of protecting, avenging or cleansing family/community honour will amount to “honour crimes”.

7. Do xenophobic crimes qualify as “honour crimes”?

Yes, if done for the above-mentioned reasons, xenophobic crimes can also be classified as “honour crimes”.

Statistics in India

2017-21

SL	State/UT	Communal / Religious					Honor Killing				
		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	2	1
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
3	Assam	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Bihar	0	12	7	6	2	0	0	0	2	0
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
7	Gujarat	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	5	0	0
8	Haryana	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	4	4
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	0	0
10	Jharkhand	2	0	0	0	0	41	9	0	4	8
11	Karnataka	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
12	Kerala	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0
13	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	3	6
14	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	16	3	0	0	0
15	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Meghalaya	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
20	Punjab	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	6	4	8
21	Rajasthan	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	0	2	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	0
24	Telangana	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
25	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	1	6	1	0	0	14	0	0	0	2
27	Uttarakhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
28	West Bengal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL STATE(S)	15	24	19	9	9	88	26	23	23	32
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu+	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
32	Delhi	0	0	0	53	0	0	1	0	0	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir*	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	1	1
34	Ladakh	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	1	0	0	53	1	4	3	1	2	1
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	16	24	19	62	10	92	29	24	25	33

Source: Crime in India

Note : '+' Combined data of erstwhile D&N Haveli UT and Daman & Diu UT during 2017, 2018, 2019

*' Data of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State including Ladakh during 2017, 2018, 2019



ARE THERE ANY DEDICATED LAWS ON HONOUR CRIMES IN INDIA?

THERE is no dedicated legislation on honour crimes. In 2012, the Law Commission of India recommended that a separate law be enacted specifically for honour-based crimes. A draft legislation “Prohibition of Interference with the Freedom of Matrimonial Alliances Bill ”was drafted and proposed specific legal actions, including the criminalisation of intimidation.

However, the Bill seems to have been abandoned as of 2024.

The only state to have so far shown some seriousness in addressing this menace is Rajasthan. In 2019, Rajasthan introduced a Bill in the state legislature modelled on the 2012 Law Commission Report. It was passed in the Rajasthan assembly in August 2019. However, it has not become an Act as it was not signed off by the governor.



Present laws against honour crimes

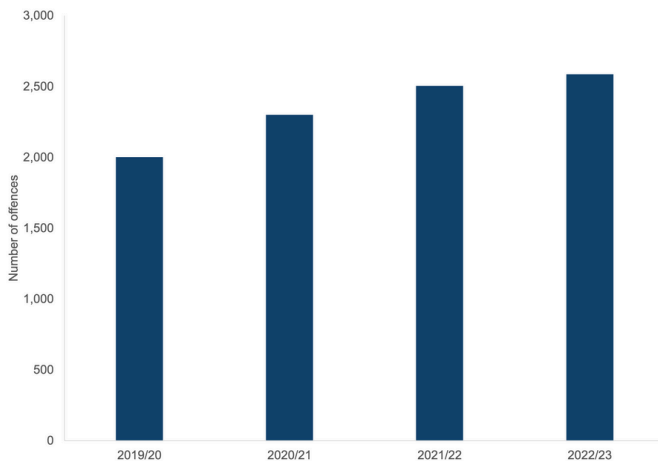
Scheduled Caste and
Scheduled Tribe
(Prevention of Atrocities)
Act, 1989

The Special
Marriages Act,
1954

IPC, 1860 & BNS
2023

Statistics in United Kingdom

Offences involving so called ‘honour-based’ abuse recorded by the police in England and Wales, excluding Devon and Cornwall, year ending March 2023.



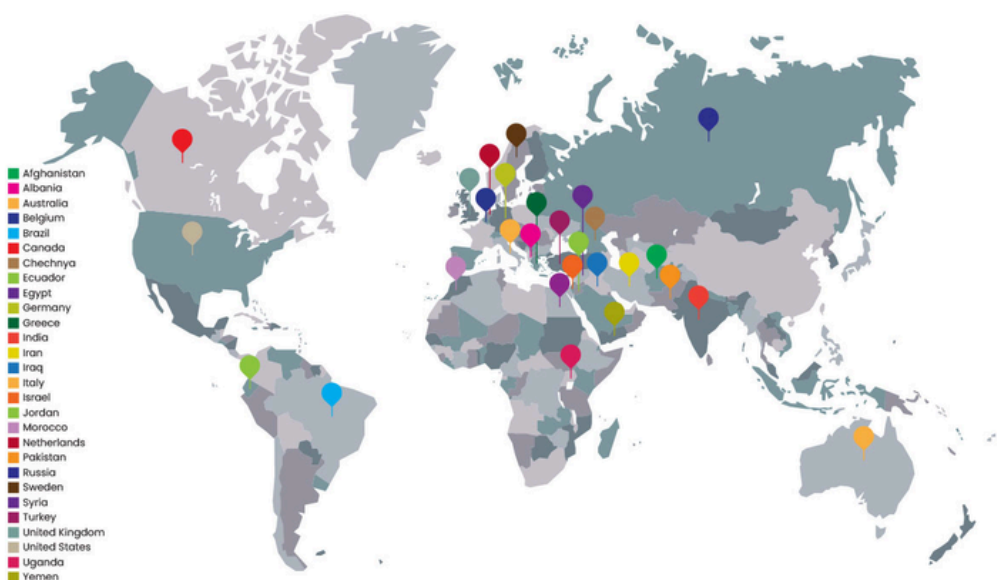
Source: *Police recorded crime, Home Office*

Notes:

Figures exclude Greater Manchester Police who were unable to supply data for year ending March 2020.

Figures exclude Devon and Cornwall police who were unable to supply data for year ending March 2023.

COUNTRIES WHERE HONOUR CRIMES ARE PRACTICED



- Source: *Asia Democracy Chronicles*

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Concept and Design:

Dr. Ritabrata Roy (Assistant Professor, Jindal Global Law School)

A stylized illustration of a woman's face and hands. The woman's face is shown in profile, looking to the right, with her mouth slightly open as if speaking or crying. Her hands are clasped together in front of her face. The background is dark and textured with red and black splatters, suggesting a violent or traumatic event.

NATIONAL HELPLINE NUMBERS

National Commission for Women (NCW) Helpline: Call
7827170170

Women Helpline 181: Call 181

Central Social Welfare Board – Police Helpline: Call 1091/1291, or
(011) 23317004

Shakti Shalini: Call 10920

A silhouette illustration of two women's heads in profile, facing each other. The woman on the left is wearing a headscarf. The background is a textured red color. The silhouettes are black and stand out against the red background.