

# Equality Act Review Campaign Policy Briefings

To inform Government and Parliamentary Debate

## Why the second reading of the Domestic Abuse Bill must be inclusive of migrant men's experiences of domestic violence.

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There are some 2.4 million victims of domestic abuse a year aged 16 to 74 (two thirds of whom are women). However, there is little we know about experiences of men, if at all. The 2011 British Crime Survey found 40% of domestic violence to be reported by men but noted this does not reflect the true figures due to underreporting. It is important to note that ethnic breakdown of this data is not available for either this data set. For this reason and many more, I took to explore Pakistani Muslim migrant men's experiences of marriage migration for my undergraduate dissertation at Oxford, and later my PhD at University College London.

In 2013, after interviewing migrant husbands and community members from five UK cities (Oxford, Luton, Bradford, Birmingham, Manchester), I collated 113 incidents of domestic abuse against migrant husbands. The perpetrators included wives, in-laws, and employers. Abuse ranged from verbal physical, financial, psychological, and sexual.

Forms	Number of victims	%	Number of CMS Victims	%
Verbal	31	100%	82	100%
Financial	28	90%	71	87%
Psychological	18	58%	63	77%
Physical	13	42%	51	62%
Children used as a weapon	7	23%	11	13%
Deception	3	10%	7	9%
Extreme Physical	2	6%	4	5%
Sexual	2	6%	1	1%
Abused by the State Representatives (i.e. police officers and social workers)	1	3%	4	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>n=31</b>		<b>n=82</b>	

*Number of victims in relation to types of abuse from 2013, Oxford University.*

I explored the experiences of Pakistani Muslim migrant husbands in and through marriage migration more broadly in the city of Birmingham for my doctorate thesis (2015-2019). Amongst other findings, domestic violence was highlighted. Of 62 migrant husbands interviewed, 100% experienced verbal

abuse, 45% experienced psychological abuse, 60% experienced financial abuse, 29% experienced physical abuse, and 34% experienced sexual abuse.

This data is also complemented with in-depth studies with migrant husbands who detailed experiences of being beaten, manipulated, threatened to have their family wealth and land in Pakistan to be transferred the British in-laws due to being tied in the *Nikaah* (marriage) contract, and more. The absence of citizenship status was a huge factor that increased the vulnerability of these men.

Type of abuse		Migrant husbands (n=62)	Community Member Interlocutors (n=43)
Indirect forms of abuse (Mirza: 2017) / coercive control (Stark: 2007, 2010)	Verbal	62 (100%)	43 (100%)
	Psychological	28 (45%)	38 (88%)
	Financial	37 (60%)	27 (63%)
Direct forms of abuse (Mirza: 2017) / domestic violence crime (Walby and Tows: 2018) that is rooted in coercive control (Stark: 2007, 2010)	Physical	18 (29%)	35 (81%)
	Sexual	21 (34%)	13 (30%)

*Number of victims in relation to types of abuse from 2019, University College London.*

In light of the coronavirus pandemic, men's domestic violence charities have reported a 30% increase in calls. Given the underreporting and the stigma attached to domestic violence in relation to masculinity, and the absence of breakdown by ethnicity of this data, it is important that the second reading of the bill is inclusive of invisible groups, including certain groups of men. For BAME and migrant men these factors increase vulnerability and precariousness, which can translate into life-threatening injuries for some.

### Selected References and Resources

Bi, S. 2019. Marriage and Masculinity in Motion: Examining Migrant Husbands' Experiences in Birmingham's British Pakistani Community. *Department of Geography, University College London*.

Bi, S. 2014. Barefoot and Bruised: Unveiling Domestic Violence against Pakistani Migrant Husbands in Transnational Marriages. *Magdalen College, Oxford University*.