

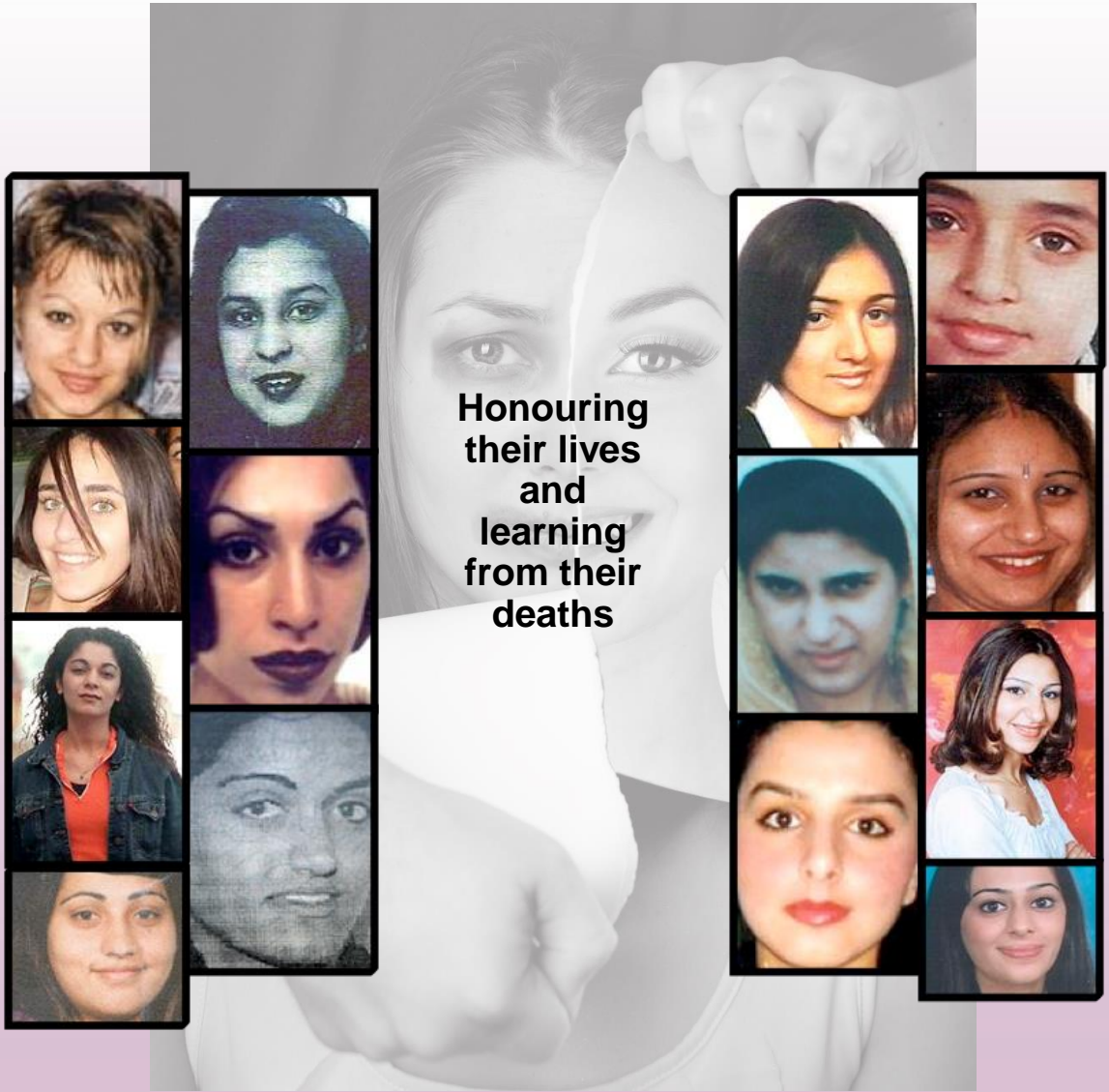
The Victim's Perspective

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The project is co-financed with the support of the Daphne Programme of the European Union.



**Honouring
their lives
and
learning
from their
deaths**



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The reality for many in the UK and Europe

"Escape, submit or die"

(Mr Andrew Edis QC, prosecuting counsel
in the Shafiea Ahmed's murder
case).



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Psychology of Victim Impact

The

“It’s more than written words or spoken words; it’s far from just an experience. It’s a psychological grief and betrayal that repeated in me from a child until this day”.

Feyrus Hussein, FGM Campaigner

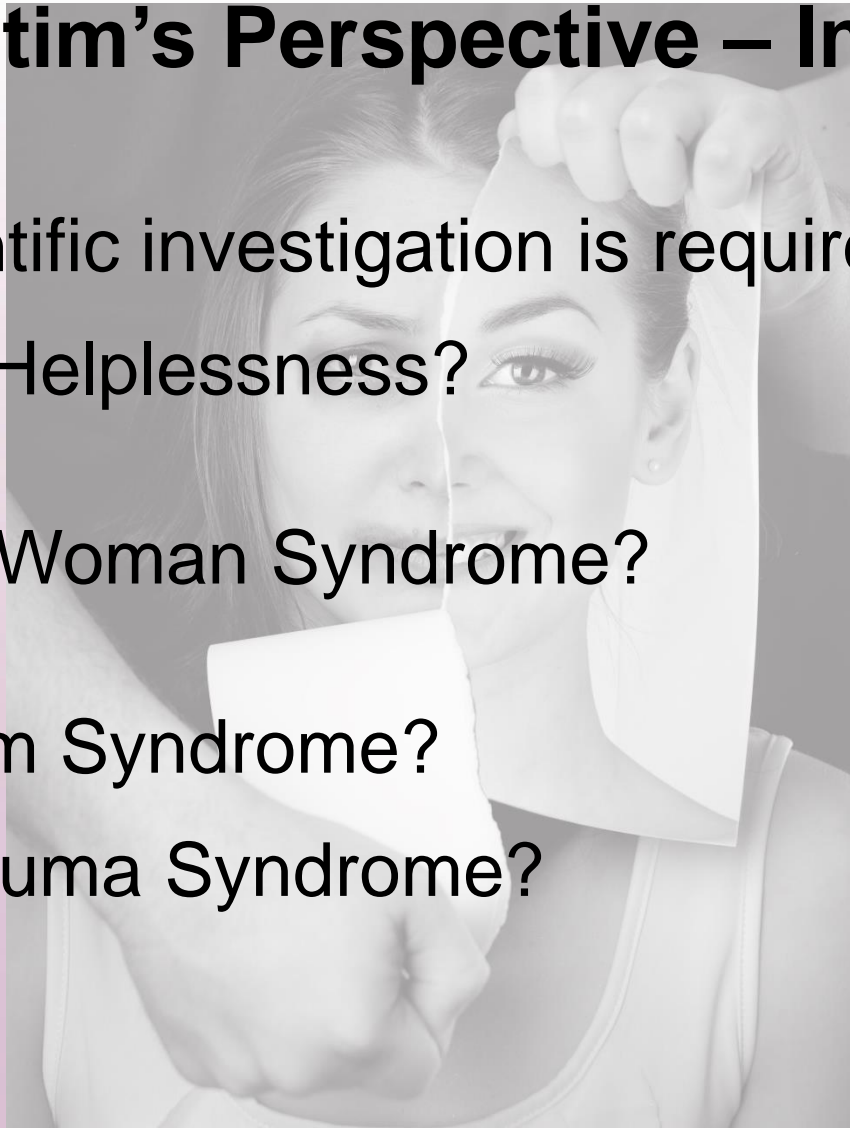


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The Victim's Perspective – Impact

More scientific investigation is required:

- Learned Helplessness?
- Battered Woman Syndrome?
- Stockholm Syndrome?
- Rape Trauma Syndrome?
- PTSD?



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Victim's Perspective

- **Rape Trauma Syndrome:**

Physical, Psychological & Behavioural symptoms

- **Immediate Response:** *Controlled, Expressed, Mixed*

- **Outward Adjustment Phase:** *Readjustment, continued changes to lifestyle, persistent physical symptoms, phobias, OCDs, agoraphobia.*

- **Post Traumatic Stress syndrome**

The person has been exposed to a traumatic event in which both of the following were present:

- *The person experienced, witnessed or was confronted with an event that involved actual or threatened death of serious injury*
- *The person's response involved fear, helplessness or horror*



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PTSD

- Recurrent and intrusive distressing recollections, including images, thoughts or perceptions.
- Acting or feeling as if the traumatic event were recurring.
- Intense psychological distress at exposure to cues that symbolise or resemble an aspect of the traumatic event.



Victim's Perspective

- ***Efforts to avoid thoughts, feelings or conversations associated with the trauma.***
- ***Inability to recall an important aspect of the trauma.***
- Feeling of detachment or estrangement from others.
- Restricted range of affect
- Sense of foreshortened future.
- Difficulty falling or staying asleep.
- Irritability or outbursts of anger.
- Hyper-vigilance.



'Victim Blaming'

- Effective management of victims experiencing coercive control relies on the:
 - Skills
 - Insight
 - Experience of professionals, and
 - Ability to move beyond 'victim blaming'.

(JTAI, Multi-agency response to children living with domestic abuse, para 68, Sept 2017).



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Victim's Perspective

The dichotomy of:

Victim Focused v Victim Led
decision-making



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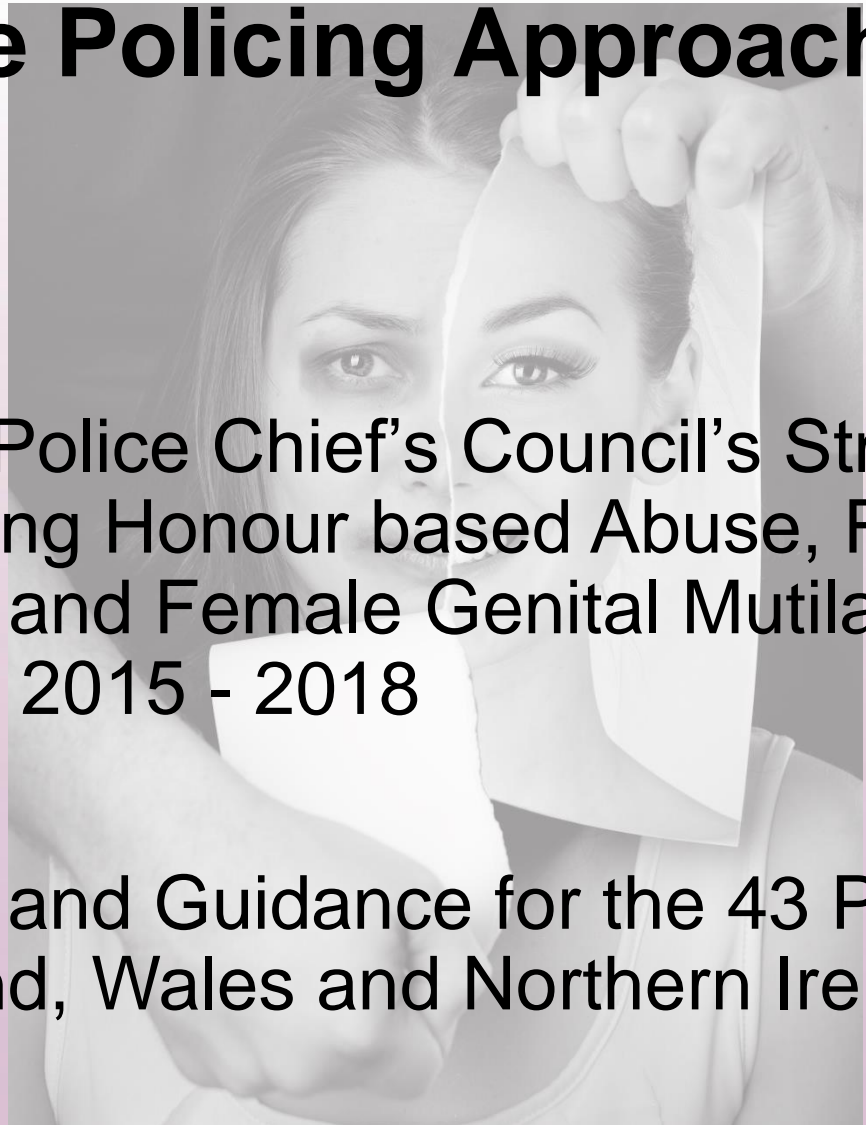


• The Policing Approach



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The Policing Approach



- National Police Chief's Council's Strategy: 'Eradicating Honour based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation Together' 2015 - 2018
- Direction and Guidance for the 43 Police Force of England, Wales and Northern Ireland



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Underpinning Principles

- That victims have got a fundamental right to be believed;
- Putting victims, their safety (safeguarding) and well-being at the heart of our responses and investigations; and
- That the victim's personal details will be stored, managed and handled with integrity and confidentiality.



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NPCC Strategy cont'd....

NPCC's 2015 HBA Strategy (A Policing Strategy for E, W & NI. Eradicating HBA, FM & FGM Together)

- Strategic Intention:

The police service is committed to playing a key role within the **coalition of partners** in **eradicating** honour based abuse, forced marriage and female genital mutilation, **increasing the confidence of victims, survivors & affected communities and in identifying, prosecuting and bringing offenders to justice.**



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NPCC New Definition

New NPCC definition: **Honour Based Abuse** is:

‘an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse), which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and / or community’s code of behaviour’.

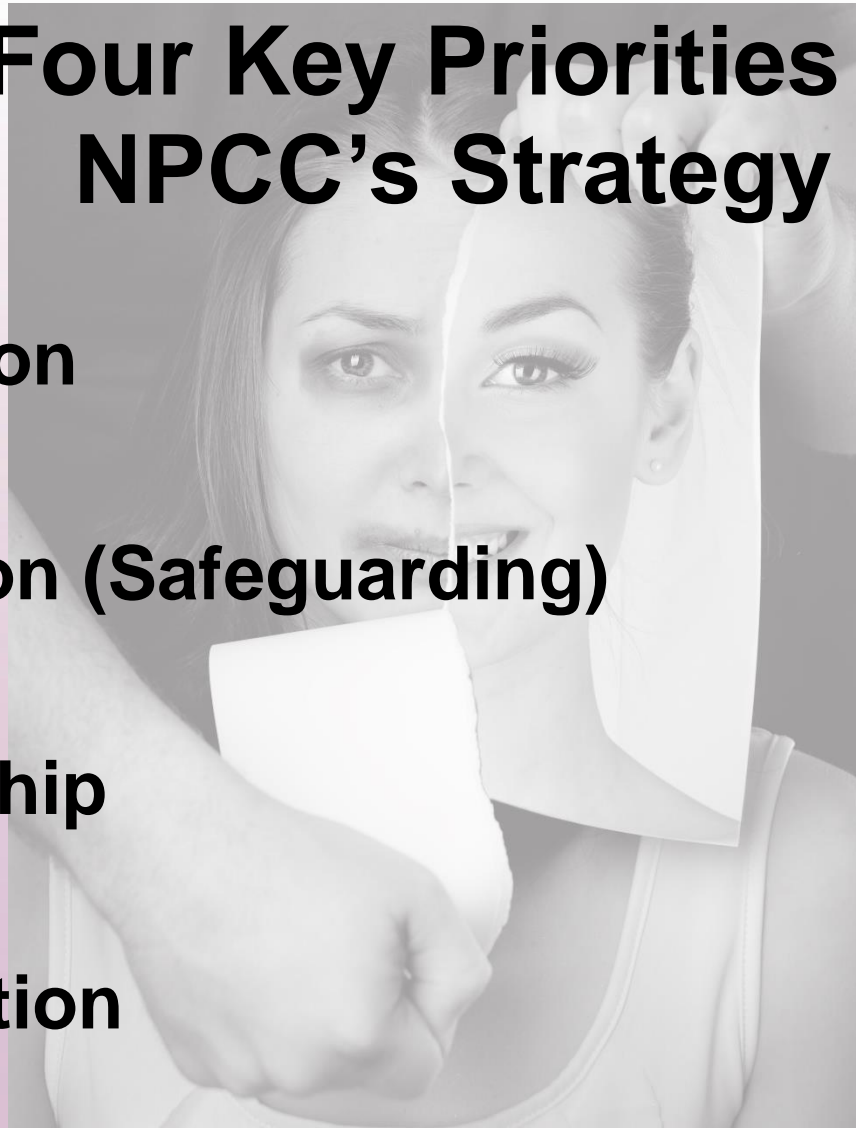
(NPCC Strategy 2015-2018).



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Four Key Priorities of NPCC's Strategy

- **Prevention**
- **Protection (Safeguarding)**
- **Partnership**
- **Prosecution**



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Safeguarding

- Protecting and safeguarding women, girls, boys and men from affected communities (which practice harmful practices) is **EVERYONE's RESPONSIBILITY** including prosecutors, other legal professionals, law enforcement professionals, social care and health care professionals and civil society organisations.
- It is a Team effort by people who CARE.



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Risk controls through legislation

- **Section 71 Serious Crime Act 2015** - Provides FGM victims life long anonymity
- **Section 173 Policing and Crime Act 2017** inserts a section 122A into Part 10 of the **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014** – Provides FM victim life long anonymity.

However, caveats linked to:

- the defendant's defence,
 - the public interest,
 - and in relation to publications consent has been given by the victim aged 16 years or over, and
 - the lack of the defendant's knowledge.
- Witness anonymity is also provided by **Coroners and Justice Act 2009**.



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Risk controls through legislation cont'd

- Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999
- Section 73 - FGM Protection Orders
- Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 –
FM Protection Orders – 25th November 2008



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HBA - The real challenge for Public Authorities

- Vastly under-reported and requiring victim, survivor and community confidence
- Attitude - Culture of Public Authorities. Capacity
- Aptitude – Knowledge, Capability and Ability
- Appetite - Protection for all must be a priority. This is non- negotiable.



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Prosecution

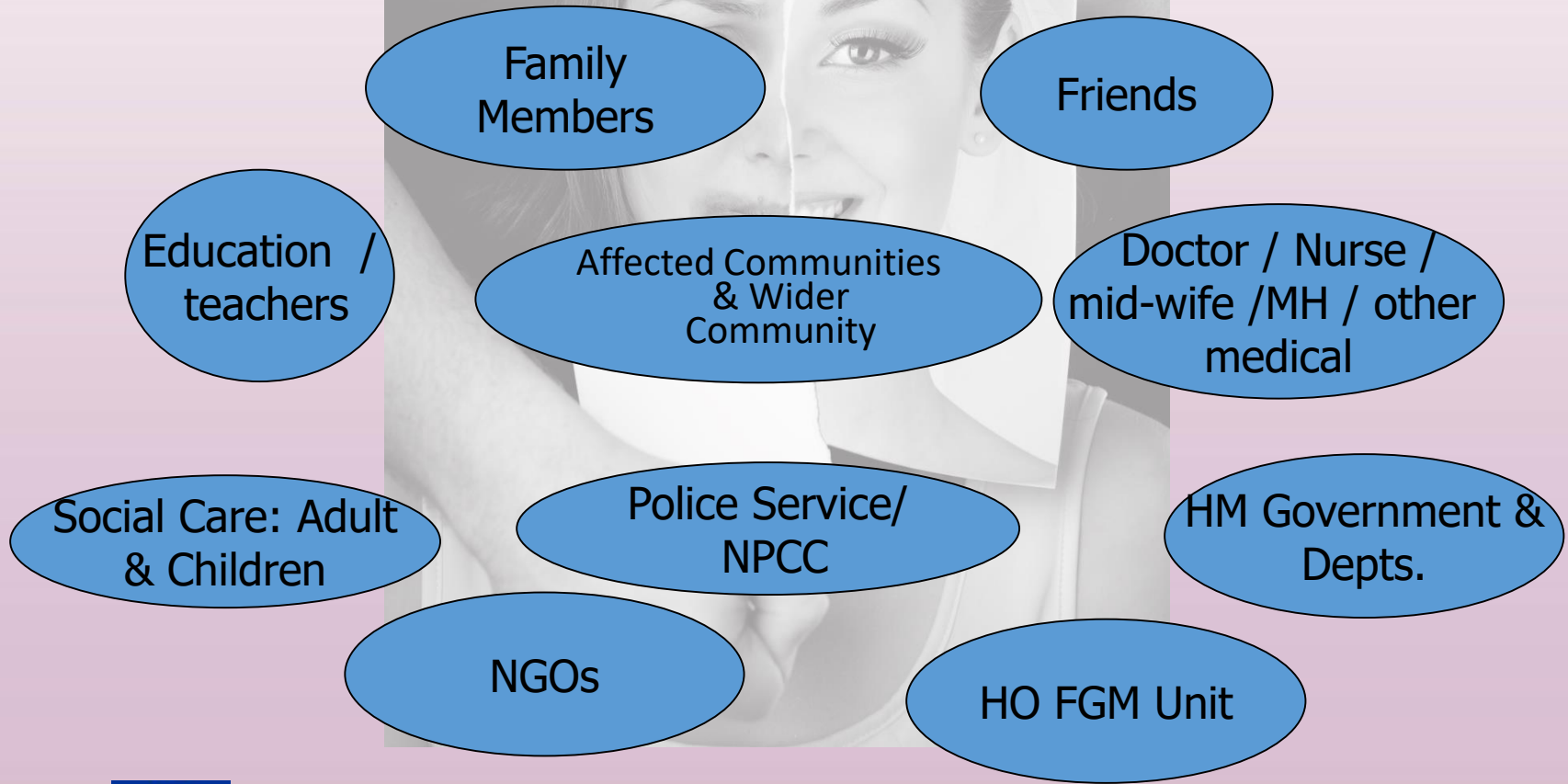
- **Former National Police Lead:** “A criminal justice approach in isolation will not eradicate FGM; that can only be done with the police, health, education, social care, NGOs and the affected communities working together for this common aim”. (Cmdr [Rtd] Mak Chishty QPM)
- **Sir James Munby President Family Division:** “The courts alone, whether the family courts or the criminal courts, cannot eradicate this great evil (FGM) but they have an important role to play and a very much greater role than they have hitherto been able to play”. (2015)



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A Partnership Approach

Home Affairs Select Committee Report (Sept '16): "FGM Prevention often requires collaboration between health, social care, education & LE sectors". However I believe it means more than this:



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Community Driven Solutions

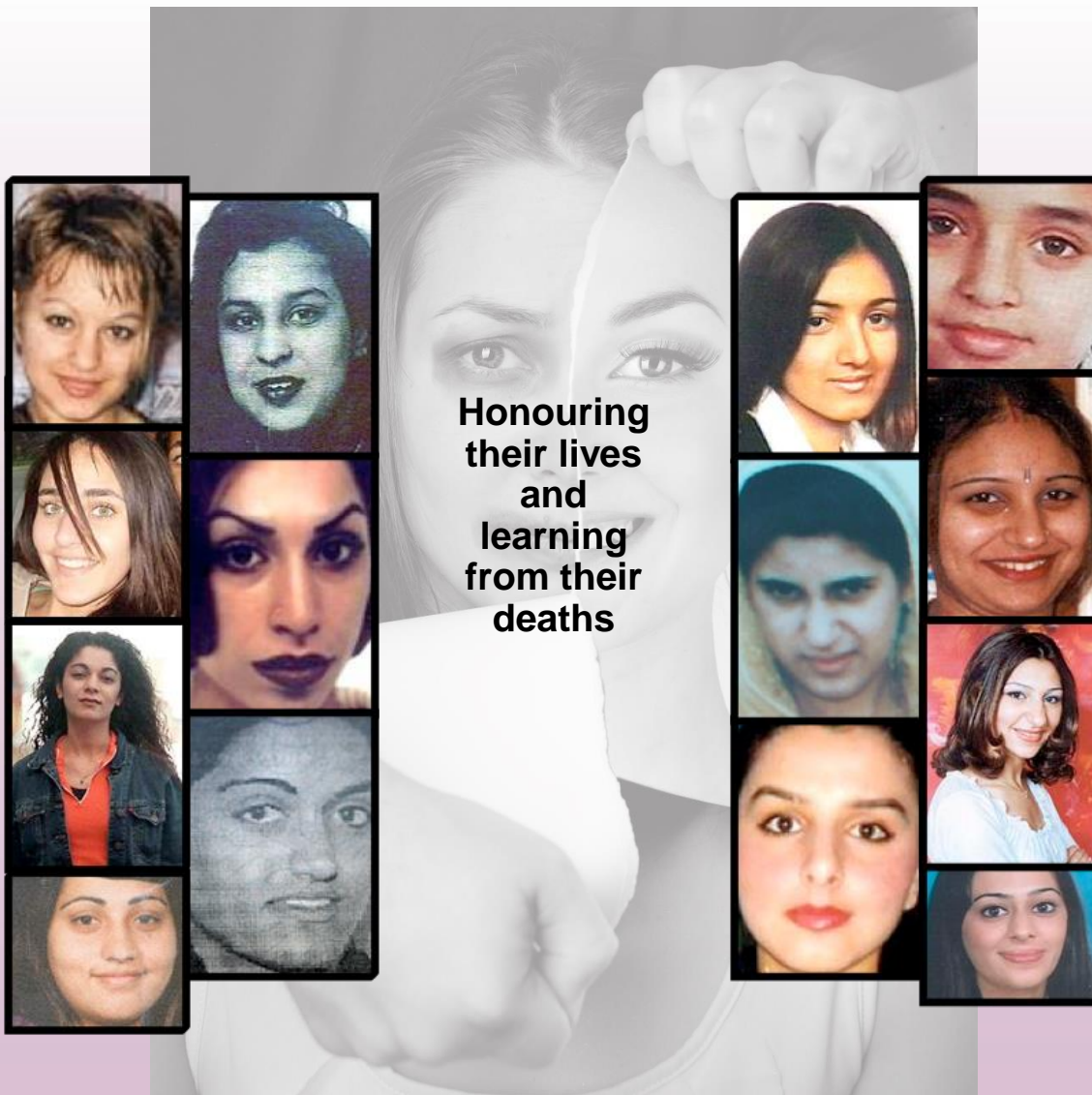
- Communities must want to change their practices, the solutions to sustained prevention and eradication rests within affected communities (recognised in HASC Report: FGM – abuse un-checked – 9th report for session 2016/17)

What it is NOT:

- Mediation
- Accessing the community through gatekeepers
- Paralegal systems, controlled by men e.g. Beth Din, Shariah



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