

# HONOUR KILLING: DESCEND AND DIMENSIONS

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## ABSTRACT

An honor killing, or honour killing also honour murder is the homicide of a member of a family or social group by other members, due to the belief of the perpetrators that the victim has brought dishonour upon the family or community. Honour killing are directed mostly against women and girls, but have been extended to men. The perceived dishonour is normally the result of one of the following behaviours, or the suspicion of such behaviours; dressing in a manner unacceptable to the family or community, wanting to terminate or prevent an arranged marriage or desiring to marry by own choice, especially if to a member of a social group deemed inappropriate, engaging in heterosexual acts outside marriage and engaging in homosexual acts.

Honour killings are acts of vengeance, usually death, committed by male family members against female family members, who are held to have brought dishonour upon the family. A woman can be targeted by her family for a variety of reasons, including: refusing to enter in to an arranged marriage, being the victim of a sexual assault, seeking a divorce- even from an abusive husband or committing adultery. Some women who bridge social divides, publicly engage other communities, or adopt some of the customs or the religion of an outside group may be attacked. The mere perception that a woman has behaved in a way that dishonours her family is sufficient to trigger an attack on her life. Men can also be the victims of honour killings by members of the family of a woman with whom they are perceived to have an inappropriate relationship.

Honour killing is a complicated issue that cuts deep in to the history of Arab society.... What the men of the family, clan or tribe seek control of in a patrilineal society is reproductive power. Women for the tribe were considered a factory for making men. The honour killing is not a means to control sexual power or behaviour, what is behind it is the issue of fertility, or reproductive power. The regime of honour is unforgiving, woman on whom suspicion has fallen are not given an opportunity to defend themselves, and family members have no socially acceptable alternative but to remove the stain on their honour by attacking the woman.

**KEY WORDS:** Honor killing, Homicide, Psychological disorders, Female Injustice.