

# Oxfordshire and West Berkshire Domestic Abuse Service



## Day of Remembrance For Honour Based Violence Victims

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service will mark the Day of Memory (DOM) to remember those who lost their lives in Honour Killings. The day was set up by Karma Nirvana that chose the 14<sup>th</sup> July because it would have been the 29<sup>th</sup> birthday of Shafiea Ahmed, the 17-year-old British girl who was suffocated by her parents with a plastic bag in an honour-based killing. The day has the intent to create awareness regarding Honour Based Violence and its practices in the UK.

For the last two years our service has joined this campaign and we are organizing an event for this year as well. This event, organized in Partnership with Thames Valley Police and Oxford County Council, will discuss the practice of **Bride Kidnapping**, a practice where the would-be groom gathers a group of young men, and together they drive around looking for a woman he wants to marry. The unsuspecting woman is often literally dragged off the street, bundled into the car and taken straight to the man's house—where frequently the family will have already started making preparations for the wedding. The girl is also pressured by her family to accept the marriage as once she has entered her kidnapper's home she is considered to be no longer pure, making it shameful for her to return home. In order to avoid disgrace, many women tend to remain with their kidnappers. Although the practice is widespread in Central Asia, especially in countries like Kirgizstan, Kazakhstan and Armenia, there are reports of the practice within communities in Eastern and Southern Europe and cases reported to police in Ireland and UK.

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 10am-1pm**

The event is in the **Main Hall** at 'The Venue' at **10:00-13:00**. The address is **242B Barns Road, Oxford OX4 3RQ**. We will be showing a documentary on the practice followed by a short presentation and a discussion with a panel. If you would like to join us please email [elaine.montgomery@a2dominion.co.uk](mailto:elaine.montgomery@a2dominion.co.uk) to register.

