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Hundreds of honour violence and forced marriage crimes going unpunished in London

- 759 honour violence offences and 265 forced marriages recorded by Met since 2015
- Just 15% of honour violence crimes resulted in a charge
- Drops to 8% for forced marriages
- Susan Hall AM calls for new approach to handling sensitive crimes

Hundreds of honour violence and forced marriage crimes are going unpunished in London, figures obtained by Susan Hall AM have revealed.

Police recorded 759 honour violence offences and 265 forced marriages in the capital between 2015 and 2017.

The data showed:

- Only 15 per cent of honour violence crimes resulted in someone being charged
- Just eight per cent of forced marriage offences resulted in a charge
- Prosecution rates have fallen year-on-year in both areas over the past three years
- Charge rates for forced marriages have halved to just six per cent since 2015
- Honour violence charge rates dropped from 16 per cent to 13 per cent

Issues cited by police included insufficiency of available evidence and/or the withdrawal of the allegation by the complainant.

London Assembly member Susan Hall believes the Met needs a fresh approach that works more closely with the affected communities and better protects victims who come forward.

She said: "Honour violence and forced marriage are appalling and archaic practices that have no place in a modern city like London.

"The charge rate for these offences is appallingly low and the fact it has dropped consistently over the past three years shows the Met's approach is not working.

"If the police are to overcome the barriers of witnesses being too scared to give evidence and of communities unwilling to co-operate, they must develop better relationships with those affected by these crimes.

"The Met has done some excellent work in recent years to improve the number of rape victims coming forward. We need a similar approach here so that victims feel more

confident they will be protected from the abusers in their community – and that figures within their community will support them too.

“I will be urging the Mayor to work with the police, charities and the affected communities to reassess the failing approach to this area of crime. We cannot allow this hidden abuse to go unpunished in our city.”

ENDS.

Notes

- Susan Hall is a London-wide Conservative Assembly Member
- Assembly Member Hall obtained the data via a written question to the Mayor of London:

Forced marriage and honour based violence

Question No: 2018/0177

[Susan Hall](#)

Over the last three years, how many incidences of forced marriage, FGM and honour based violence were recorded by the MPS in London? What proportion of these individual cases resulted in a charge being brought?

Written response from the Mayor

Notifiable offences flagged as Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage and the proportion of those offences that had an outcome of Charge/Summons recorded in the last 3 Calendar years – 2015, 2016 & 2017

Notifiable Honour Violence Offences:

Notifiable Honour Violence Offences	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
Grand Total	266	232	261	759
Charged/Summonsed	44	36	35	115
% Charged	16.5%	15.5%	13.4%	15.2%

Notifiable Forced Marriage Offences:

Notifiable Forced Marriage Offences	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
Grand Total	71	96	98	265
Charged/Summonsed	10	7	6	23
% Charged	14.1%	7.3%	6.1%	8.7%

Victims' safety and wellbeing is paramount when investigating these offences, which are particularly challenging and sensitive. The reasons why allegations fail to progress to charge are often varied, but often include insufficiency of available evidence and/or the withdrawal of the allegation by the complainant.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact the press office below.

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