



OxfordAgainstCutting
ProtectingGirls&Women



Oxford Against Cutting Annual Review

For year ended 31st March 2022
Charity number 1161597



OxfordAgainstCutting
ProtectingGirls&Women

www.oxfordagainstcutting.org

Our Supporters



Executive Summary



Our charity continues to provide high quality education on harmful practices for groups across the Thames Valley. Our workshops are always delivered with facilitators from affected communities who can share lived experiences of the impact of harmful practices on families and communities. As we head towards the end of the pandemic, we have been providing both in person and online education. We are proud to have reached 1400 students and 700 teachers, professionals and community groups during the last financial year.

We have also significantly expanded the range of issues we tackle and created 10 new films, as part of our True Izzat (“izzat” meaning ‘honour’ in Urdu/Punjabi) and True Sharif (“sharif” meaning ‘honour’ in Arabic) projects. The films address a range of sexual health and abuse issues and have been interpreted in additional languages. We were delighted to work with local partners to agree key messaging for the films and record community conversations on these sensitive issues. Our charity is also creating new workshops for communities based on the films and has piloted the True Izzat series with a South Asian girls’ group.

Our Web Cafes continue to run as a rolling programme, to give communities and professionals regular meeting space to discuss issues considered taboo. Further, we have expanded the reach of our messaging through creative social media and by working closely with our new Social Justice Influencers. Our work supporting other agencies has also expanded with the full launch of Diversity Perspectives and the ongoing contribution of the BAED WORLDS Group in supporting minoritised women suffering abuse.

Our charity is a very diverse team of dedicated, passionate women and we represent 9 different ethnic and/or cultural groups. We take great care to ensure all our education and awareness-raising activities are sensitive and on point. We have run in-house sessions on intersectionality, with a focus on race and gender, and we provide regular training on messaging and facilitation skills for our team.

We hope you will join our workshops and share our resources widely to help end harmful practices and support survivors. Thank you for your support.

True Izzat

Our “True Izzat” film project includes learning on sexual health and relationships to support people from South Asian communities in Oxfordshire. “Izzat” means ‘honour’ in Urdu/Punjabi and the films aim to increase reach to sexual health services and tackle issues that carry feelings of shame and embarrassment in some families.

There are 5 films in the series, each tackling an issue starting with the letter C. The 5 Cs are: consent and marital rape (Consent); contraception available to women (Contraception); STIs (Condoms); pressures to have children and infertility (Conception); and counselling/ genetic conditions caused by cousin marriages (Genetic Conditions).

The films have been created in Urdu, Punjabi and English in 2 parts – part 1 non-audio as an awareness-raising film for GP surgery waiting rooms, for example, and part 2 with interviews and discussion for education.

We were delighted to launch the films in community groups with partners, Oxford Asian Women’s Voice, Young Women’s Music Project and Hestia’s women’s group. The project was kindly funded by Public Health Oxfordshire and the evaluation report is available on our website.

This work was further developed when we created and piloted a workshop series based on the films for a South Asian girls’ group.



True Sharif



Our “True Sharif” film project includes learning on abuse issues to support people from African communities in the Thames Valley. “Sharif” means ‘honour’ in Arabic and the films aim to increase reach to abuse services and tackle issues that carry feelings of shame and embarrassment.

There are 5 films in the series, each tackling an issue starting with the letter M. The 5 Ms are: Mutilation (specifically Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Protection Orders); Money Abuse; Modern Slavery; Men and FGM; and Mental Health and Domestic Abuse.

The films have been created in English in 2 parts – part 1 non-audio as an awareness-raising film for dentist waiting rooms, for example, and part 2 with interviews and discussion for education. The films will be available in Arabic by late 2022.

We were delighted to work with partners to agree key messaging and film community groups discussing the 5Ms, including the Alliance for Cohesion and Racial Equality (ACRE), Utulivu, Women With Vision, Refugee Resource and Sudanese Community in Oxfordshire.

The project was kindly commissioned by Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and West Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Groups using domestic abuse specific funding from NHS England. The evaluation report will be available on our website by the end of 2022.

We plan to develop the work further through the creation of a workshop series for community groups.

Web Café

Our Web Cafes continued to provide a safe, informal online space for communities and professionals to meet, share learning and provide mutual support on sensitive topics. The series, facilitated by Sobia Afridi, focused on issues intertwined with ideas around 'honour' and 'shame' in some South Asian communities.



Sobia Afridi



Tanya Vyas



Dot Pritchard

OxfordAgainstCutting
ProtectingGirls&Women

Web Café Schedule

Safe Spaces for Difficult Conversations about 'honour'-based abuse, led by Sobia Afridi

Zoom Login Details: Meeting ID: 847 2271 7771 Passcode: 697063
All sessions 12 - 1pm

- Fri 14th May - Masculinity and Shame with Imran Manzoor, Breaking The Silence
- Fri 28th May - Abandoned Brides
- Fri 11th June - Polygamy with Fotou Badjie Ceesay
- Fri 25th June - The Role of Faith Leaders in Ending Harmful Practices
- Fri 9th July - Male Activism
- Fri 16th July - Adoption with Sobia Afridi, Oxford Against Cutting

*topic dates may vary and more speakers to be confirmed

Please email dot@oxfordagainstcutting.org for queries
www.oxfordagainstcutting.org

Web Cafe

Safe Spaces for Difficult Conversations about 'Honour'-based Abuse
led by Sobia Afridi

Zoom Login Details:
Meeting ID: 847 2271 7771
Passcode: 697063

Fri 28th May, 12 - 1pm

Abandoned Brides with
Naz Shah, MP
Seema Dhank, VZSEmpowerment

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Web Cafe

Safe Spaces for Difficult Conversations about 'Honour'-based Abuse
led by Sobia Afridi

Zoom Login Details:
Meeting ID: 847 2271 7771
Passcode: 697063

Fri 11th June, 12 - 1pm

'Polygamy' with
Fatou Badjie Ceesay

Please email dot@oxfordagainstcutting.org for queries

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Presents... Web Cafe 2021 Winter Series October - December

Zoom login details: Meeting ID: 847 2271 7771 Passcode: 697063

Sobia Afridi facilitates:
12pm-1pm 13 October - Abortion
12pm-1pm 20 October - Divorce

BREAK FOR HALF TERM

12pm-1pm 9 November - Suicide and Self-Harm
12pm-1pm 10 November - Conception
12pm-1pm 17 November - Intergenerational Trauma

Dot Pritchard facilitates:
12pm-1pm 10 December

'How 'honour' affects people from queer and trans communities'
kindly sponsored by

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

OxfordAgainstCutting
ProtectingGirls&Women

Presents...
Web Cafe 2021 Winter Series
October - December

Zoom login details: Meeting ID: 847 2271 7771 Passcode: 697063

Safe Spaces for Difficult Conversations about 'Honour'-based Abuse
12pm-1pm 2nd November/ Suicide and Self-Harm

Zoom login details: Meeting ID: 847 2271 7771 Passcode: 697063

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Presents...
Web Cafe 2021 Winter Series
October - December

Zoom login details: Meeting ID: 847 2271 7771 Passcode: 697063

Safe Spaces for Difficult Conversations about 'Honour'-based Abuse
12pm-1pm 27th November/ Intergenerational Trauma

Zoom login details: Meeting ID: 847 2271 7771 Passcode: 697063

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Presents...
Web Cafe 2021 Winter Series
October - December

Zoom login details: Meeting ID: 847 2271 7771 Passcode: 697063

Safe Spaces for Difficult Conversations about 'Honour'-based Abuse
12pm-1pm 18th November/ Conception

Zoom login details: Meeting ID: 847 2271 7771 Passcode: 697063

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

OxfordAgainstCutting
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Presents...
How 'honour' affects people from queer and trans communities.

12pm-1pm
10th December

Dot Pritchard, Seema Dhank
Facilitators

Join us on the details below:
Zoom login details: Meeting ID: 847 2271 7771 Passcode: 697063

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Supporting an intersectional approach to tackling abuse

We continue to lead the multi-agency group, BAED WORLDS (Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse Women in Oxfordshire Recovering from Domestic Abuse), part of the Domestic Abuse Partnership hosted by Oxfordshire County Council.



Kate Clayton



Hauwa Suleiman

Members benefited from the Group organising a workshop on Spiritual Abuse and Structural Racism by Imran Manzoor, Founder of Breaking the Silence, and a pilot of our charity's new Abandoned Brides workshop. In addition, BAED WORLDS facilitated brainstorming on gaps and barriers to services, creating a list of priorities and feeding into local strategy. The Group also inspired Healthwatch to carry out research on interpretation services in Oxfordshire. The organisers have also supported the creation of an equivalent group in Berkshire.

Diversity Perspectives, led by Dr Kate Clayton-Hathway, supports agencies to ensure training materials, policies and information are suitable for the intended audience from an intersectional perspective. Our specialist team reviews resources to support the use of materials that are culturally sensitive, gender-appropriate, and user-friendly for all ages and abilities. We were pleased to deliver an evaluation of domestic abuse materials and strategy for Wokingham Borough Council.



Digital Resources

Tanya Vyas

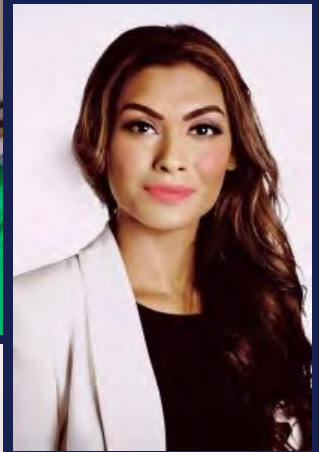
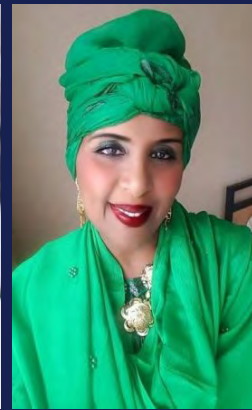
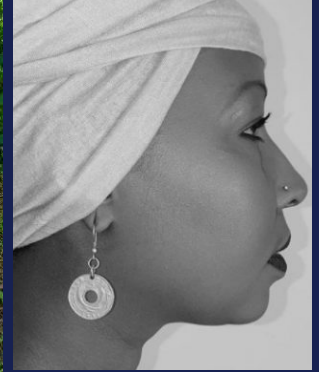


We created a marketing film, with snippets from our past workshops, to encourage schools to book our lessons and safeguarding training.

We also created a fundraising film, Futures Full of Love, featuring a poem by Sikh feminist and Spoken Word Artist, Jaspreet Kaur. The film was released on Valentine's Day and has attracted donations to support our charity.

We have built up an engaged and committed following on our social media platforms. We have run campaigns, for example, we shared audiograms with snippets of survivors' stories to mark the 16 Days of Activism. For World AIDS Day, we featured a clip from our True Izzat Condoms film, teaming up with Terrence Higgins Trust to highlight the importance of HIV testing.

We have worked closely with our Social Justice Influencers to extend the reach of our messaging. Some of our influencers campaign against harmful practices, others tackle specific issues that can bring feelings of shame in some communities, such as not being able to conceive, body image and intergenerational trauma.



HBA Art Competition

'Pictures speak a thousand words'



Dot Pritchard

We ran an art competition to raise awareness of 'honour'-based abuse (HBA). The judges were from HBA-affected communities and were invited to join our HBA workshop as part of the competition process. We also ran HBA workshops for two Year 10 classes at Cherwell School, Oxford - the students were then inspired to create artwork for our competition. There were some exceptional entries, here are the winners:



Winner of under 18's category, Zena, 15, Cherwell School



Winner of over 18's category, Andra, 21

Artist's description: There are two elements to the painting: the background illustrating someone falling into a body of water, and the painted piece of notebook paper saying 'I am my own'. The background refers to how women are pressured to represent honour and drown their personal wishes. The piece of paper refers to how we have the power to speak up to expectations through art, be it painting or even simple words written on paper. I wanted to render the page realistically in contrast to the illustrative background so it stands out as out of place.



Runner up of under 18's category, Edie, 17

Artist's description: My artwork represents the emotional state of a victim of honour based abuse. The young woman is surrounded by a sea of foreboding eyes which represent the collusion of family members and possibly members of the wider community in some cases of honour based abuse. The mouth over the victim's head is a metaphor for her emotional state of mind - it suggests her mind is screaming for help, whilst her actual mouth is shut and her real voice is silenced, she is controlled and feels powerless.



Working with schools

Our charity delivers lessons and workshops for schools and universities across the Thames Valley, always with a facilitator from an affected community who brings lived-experience to learning, as well as specialist knowledge. Evaluation of our training consistently demonstrates that knowledge and confidence levels in dealing with all the issues surrounding FGM and forced marriage increase significantly following our workshops.

We reached 1400 students and 700 teachers, professionals and community groups during 2021-2022 (financial year)

FGM or HBA specialist safeguarding staff training

- Chaffinch Brook School, Croydon (online for 45 staff)
- Croydon primary school DSLs (2 workshops online)
- Hanborough Pre-School (in person)
- St Helen and St Katharine School, Abingdon (in person)
- Knowles Primary School, Milton Keynes (online for 40 staff)
- “Meet the Expert” online event for DSLs representing 9 different schools in the River Learning Trust (organised by Cherwell School)
- Montem Academy, Slough (in person for 65 staff)
- Early Years Managers Meeting, Children, Education and Families Directorate, Oxfordshire County Council (20 minute debrief)
- Early Years Childminders Meeting, Children, Education and Families Directorate, Oxfordshire County Council (20 minute debrief)
- The Warriner School, Bloxham (in person for 45 staff)
- Wexham Court Primary School (online)
- Windale Primary School (online for 24 staff)
- Wycombe High School for Girls (in person)



Lessons – all in person

- Beaconsfield High School Anti-FGM lessons for 175 students (Year 8)
- Cherwell School – lessons on forced marriage for 40 students (Year 10)
- Didcot Girls – lessons on FGM for 270 students (Year 7)
- Wycombe High School for Girls Anti-FGM lessons for 175 students (Year 7)
- Knowles Primary School What is Culture? for 38 students (Year 6)
- Knowles Primary School Who Can You Tell? lesson for 45 students (Year 2)
- Oxford Brookes Final Year students of Complex Care (28 students)
- Wexham Court Primary School – What is Culture? lessons for 90 students (Year 6)

Our charity also delivered anti-FGM and HBA workshops and presentations for:

- Community United West Berkshire event (27 delegates online)
- Homestart (online)
- Newly qualified social workers, Oxfordshire (FGM and HBA workshops)
- Oxfordshire Asian Women's Voice (in person, healthy relationships)
- Oxford Brookes University Public Lecture (online for 29 delegates)
- Oxford Brookes University VAWG Conference (online), with students from Buckinghamshire New University and the University of Oxford – anti-FGM workshops and joint key note presentation for approximately 500 students
- Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) Anti-HBA workshops (3 online as part of a rolling programme)
- Contribution to OSCB multi-agency training on FGM (3 online events)
- Sunrise Multicultural Project, Banbury – 5 various in person workshops on healthy relationships
- Utulivu's FGM Zero Tolerance 2022 Conference
- Wokingham Borough Council (38 delegates online)



Going The Extra Mile

In addition to a packed calendar of training, awareness-raising and education events, OAC is a member and contributor to:



Caroline Pinder

- Thames Valley BAED Partnership
- The Oxford FGM Operational Group (sub group of Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board)
- The Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership
- The Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group
- Home Office's Anti-FGM Stakeholder Group
- Case Review (anonymised) meetings with Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Services
- Berkshire BAED Working Group

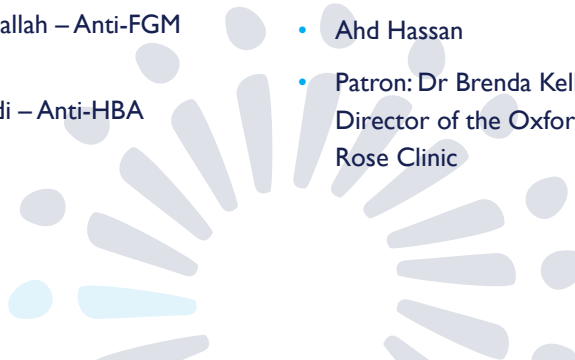
Our Team

- Kate Agha - CEO
- Dr Kate Clayton-Hathway – Director of Research and Evaluation
- Dot Pritchard – Project Manager
- Rumbi Evans – Office Manager
- Hauwa Suleiman – Gender Specialist and BAED WORLDS Coordinator
- Tanya Vyas – Social Media Communications Coordinator
- Kaddy Touray – Senior Anti-FGM Facilitator
- Lena el-Hindi – Senior Anti-FGM Facilitator
- Dr Nesreen Yanni – Anti-FGM Facilitator
- Rubie Marie – Ambassador and Anti-HBA Facilitator
- Mariama Sallah – Anti-FGM Facilitator
- Sobia Afridi – Anti-HBA Facilitator

- Monica Majumdar-Choudhary – Anti-HBA Facilitator and Social Media Specialist
- Babs Ceesay – Anti-FGM Facilitator
- Moram Nafaa – Anti-FGM Facilitator
- Arifa Naeem – Anti-HBA Facilitator

Our Trustees

- Caroline Pinder (Chair);
- Dr Sharon Dixon (Treasurer) National GP Lead on FGM;
- Liz Parry;
- Miranda Dobson;
- Richard Coleman;
- Naseem Sarbatta-Walia;
- Seiza Bashir;
- Ahd Hassan
- Patron: Dr Brenda Kelly, Director of the Oxford Rose Clinic



How To Donate

Please support us in helping prevent FGM and forced marriage and support survivors living in the Thames Valley. Every donation we receive makes a significant contribution towards continuing our work. **Our overheads are minimal as we do not have office space.** You can therefore be reassured that your donation will directly contribute to our work to tackle harmful cultural practices.

You can donate to Oxford Against Cutting:

- Online via our website: <https://www.oxfordagainstcutting.org/donate-here/>
- Make a single donation by bank transfer, or set up a regular donation by standing order Account name: **Oxford Against Cutting Account number: 33389952 Sort code: 20-97-48**

For more information visit our website: www.oxfordagainstcutting.org



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