

Honor Related Violence (HRV)

LiA report submitted to MKFC Stockholm

Supervisor
Hamid Iravani

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Student

Elsa Weldemariam
elsa.weldemariam@mkfc.efodi.fi or
elsatsegay@yahoo.com

Organization

Glöm Aldrig Pela och fadime
Riksföreningen

Contact person

Sara Mohammad
Pela_fadime@yahoo.com
www.pelafadime.se

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Organization back ground

Never Forget Pela and Fadime-nation Association (GAPF) is a secular and non-profit organization that works to help vulnerable immigrant women and girls. The organization works to prevent honor related violence against women and has been addressing issues in the community through discussion, debates and seminars. Never Forget Pela and Fadime National Organization was founded in 2001 by Sara Mohammad. Its purpose is to help victims of honor related violence and others, and educate on honor violence and its consequences. The organization works in several locations around the country.

GAPF is named after Fadime 26 years old girl, an activist against HRV and was murdered by her father, where two months before her death she spoke in the Swedish Parliament and Pela 19 years old girl a victim of Honor related killing.

with a purpose of reaching out the public as widely as possible, GAPF has been giving presentations for all interested parties, including government agencies like the police and Social office, other organizations and staff who deal with people affected by honor-related violence. The Organization has also produced a documentary film, filmed in Iraq, and it's about honor threatened young girls, women in Iraqi Kurdistan and the film is being used during lectures. GAPF is also the first to introduce the silver-colored Pela and Fadime ribbon, a universal symbol of honor and support of young people exposed to the honor violence, the first to wear this symbolic tape was Sweden's education minister, Ibrahim Baylan.

GAPF also works with support families; these are families who are able to care for vulnerable girls and boys and to keep them under the protection from one day up to three weeks. Support Families remain anonymous and only have contact with one person in GAPF to insure the safety of both parties. With the help of support families and other willing members, the organization has helped many vulnerable women and men throughout the years. Since January 2010, GAPF is working with youth Board and the project aims to educate the society about the honor-related violence through different means.

GAPF is also a member of European network in Brussels, in cooperation with the EFD (European Foundation for Democracy). And the organization plans to have several hearing and conferences yearly in Brussels as well as in other European countries.

For years Sara Mohammad, the founder of the organization has emphasized among politicians as well as officials at authorities and civil service departments the need for more HRV awareness in the public society and other Government departments. The accumulated knowledge, confidence, solid and well-established ability to cooperate, and the wide network of Sara Mohammad and the GAPF constitute good and well-founded future prospects. Although GAPF is a nonprofit organization, the organization have received a number of awards and prizes.

Northwest Police in Stockholm County

Sara Mohammad - Medal Prize Thanks for Good Help - Police - June 3, 2009

Expressen

Sara Mohammad - No. 9 of 49 of Sweden's most powerful, smartest, funniest and most influential women right now - 2008

Aftonbladet, TV3 and OTW Production

Sara Mohammad - Swedish hero Enthusiast - 2007

Blatte de Luxe

Sara Mohammad - Blatte de Luxe Award Society - 2007

Miss Pleased

Sara Mohammad Network for Increased Gender Equality - 2006

Objective of the activities

The honor-related violence refers to the punishment of girls and women for sexual or societal indiscretions which is believed it brings shame on the family, it has become increasingly visible in among Swedish with immigrant background and its forms range differs from oppression through killing.

Honor related violence (HRV) is a global problem and the parameters of the power dynamics involved in HRV is complex since they are embedded in interpersonal relations, family, community, religion and culture, and Marital sexual slavery, seclusion, arranged marriage, bride price, polygamy and genital mutilation is all the expression of female sexual slavery with well developed ideologies rooted in

the customs, religion and laws of the societies. The violence is the result of the patriarchal order, justified and protected as culturally specific and a culturally unique practice.

Currently in Sweden, about 150 people are living in hiding after being threatened with honor-related violence. 13 of 37 cases concerning the Care of Young Persons Act in Stockholm County in 2006 were honor related. In a 2004 survey county administrators estimated that 1,500 to 2,000 girls and young women were subjected to it and that 150-300 needed to live in hiding. The police reported about 400 cases brought to the police's attention annually are honor related violence. 27% of Swedish girls of foreign background have restrictions from home that might be related to honor related oppression.

Respect for democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms are essential and universal values that must be realized and defended. Gender equality is an integral part of democracy and absolutely central to sustainable development. Each girl and boy has equal rights and every single one of them deserve respect and the empowerment of girls and women is fundamental to meeting the challenges that face the realization of these universal values.

All people regardless of sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, disability or cultural and religious traditions are of equal value, and must be able to enjoy human rights. All people should have equal opportunities in all areas of society.

It is therefore vital to emphasize the importance of approaching HRV on the basis of human rights violation against women, to be able to find constructive and durable solutions. The strategy to combat HRV should be multileveled and include interventions at the level of the state, community/family, and individuals. Training and integrated approach are also fundamental parts to this process.

Through the projects GAPF works with an objectives,

- HRV incidents are prevented through increased knowledge among Social office, The Police, Politicians and School staffs.
- Girls and women with immigrant background are empowered to construct their own identities, with rights and protections that free them from the threats of HRV.
- Diversity and recognition within religious and cultural groups including diversity on the basis of sexual orientation and gender is created through

HRV campaigns, different trainings and conferences, and stereotypes are challenged.

Report related to LiA activity

These 6 weeks of LiA time with Glöm Aldrig Pela och fadime Riksföreningen has been a time of adventure and great exposure to meet many professionals from Parliament members, Politicians, police, Judges, Social office and many other people who are working on the similar issue. During the placement I was able to help the organization to build English section in their current website; a Brochure in English language is also created to help the organization reach in other European Countries too. The last 3 weeks of my placement was occupied with writing a project proposal in English, the proposal in submitted on 16th Dec to EU commission.

The following are some of the day to day activities I participated;

Nov, 1 – ABF information night

Glöm Aldrig Pela och fadime Riksföreningen, had an information night at ABF house and along to many participants, organizations working on the same area were also invite.



Information night at ABF

Nov 9, 16, 23, 30/ Dec 2, 9 – Lunch seminar

Glöm Aldrig Pela och fadime Riksföreningen, continuously makes an effort to increase awareness of HRV among professionals who are directly or indirectly involved in help victims. On the above days the organization held a Lunch seminars to Parliament members and Dilsa Demirbag-Sten a Journalist and Activist was one of the invited speaker among others.



Lunch seminar

Nov 11, Järfälla Kommun evening seminar to commune

Sara Mohammad was invited to speak in järfälla Kommun to staffs and other volunteers who were interested in issues related to HRV.

New Honor Violence in Katrineholm 2010-11-15 (manifestation 20/11/2010)

It was unfortunate to hear there was another Honor victim in Katrineholm on 15th of November, The victim Jian, 21 years old girl and a mother of 2 was murdered by her father for divorcing her husband. Glöm Aldrig Pela och fadime Riksföreningen along with other organization held a manifestation in Katrineholm against Honor related Violence. Jian was remembered with candle light and flowers on the occasion.



Manifestation in Katrineholm 20/11/2010

Nov 23, court hearing, Sara

Sara was another victim of HRV; she was bitten by her own brother for having a life style different from Iranian culture. Glöm Aldrig Pela och fadime Riksföreningen SUPPORTED Sara to take the case to court, the court hearing happend on Nov 23rd, 2010. Sara's brother is now serving in jail for four months and paid Sara 15,000 SEK.

Nov 26, Uppsala

GAPF was also invited to give lecture in Uppsala to a number of Judges and lawyers.



Lecture in Uppsal court house.

Acronyms

HRV- Honor related violence HRV

GAPF - Glöm aldrig Pela och Fadime