

Name of Project: Ascent Ending Harmful Practices
Lead partner: Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)
Delivery partner: IMECE Women's Centre
Borough: Haringey

I am a 39-year-old Turkish woman. I married my husband with religious marriage in 2015 whilst I was residing in Switzerland. I don't have any children. I used to come to the UK to visit my husband often. On one of those visit he prevented me from going back to Switzerland by emotionally blackmailing me saying that he would kill himself if I went back. For this reason, I lost my settlement opportunity there. He promised that we would get legally married but never actually acted on it.

He started being physically and sexually abusive to me but I couldn't seek help as I didn't know how to. He controlled everything including finances and continuously threatened to kill himself and me if I left him.

He would often say things like "I will send you to Turkey and finish you there. They'd pick you up straight away from the airport, [redacted] and bury somewhere; no one could find you. I tell your family that we broke up and you left me."
I got really scared because honour killings took place within my extended family before.

After one of his physical assaults, I ended up at a hospital in May 2022. I was then referred to IMECE Women's Centre on 19th of May by North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust.

Interventions undertaken by IMECE

- Risk & Needs Assessment; Safety and Support Plan made
- MARAC Referral and adult's safeguarding alert made to the local authority.
- Found emergency accommodation at a shelter due to NRPF status
- Emergency Funds provided for her travel to the provided accommodation and for a new SIM card
- IMECE Specialist BME/ IDVA support to be followed by Floating Support to ensure smooths transition to an abuse-free life.
- Non Molestation Order (NMO) Advice given but due to fears of retaliation

OUTCOMES

- SD was referred to MARAC after the risk assessment as she was at a very high risk of Honour Based Violence as well as suffering coercive-controlling behaviour, emotional, verbal, sexual and financial abuse. The case was allocated to one of IMECE's specialist BME IDVAs who supported SD in the following
- SD was moved into a safe accommodation: Staying at [Redacted]. This was crucial as her tourist visa prevented her applying to DDVC visa.

- SD was then referred to a BAME Specialist Organisation who offers specialist Immigration Advice for Asylum. Changing her Tourist Visa to Asylum Seeking was very crucial for her to be able to access services, public funds, and legal aid. She is still waiting for her application outcome.
- Provision of 50-pound Tesco voucher
- Counselling support at Imece Women's Centre
- Non Molestation Order was explored but due to her immigration status this was not possible to obtain. Also SD was scared of the possible retaliation from the extended family members so she withdrew her complaint against the perpetrator.
- One-to-one DV Awareness session explaining her options and rights in details. This led to SD feel safer and increase her self-esteem.
- She is completely safe from further abuse and ready to her new life once secures her immigration status.

IMECE continues to provide ongoing floating support to SD to ensure all her needs are met and she has a smooth transition from the Emergency Accommodation to Temporary Accommodation once the immigration matter is resolved.

Feedback from service user

"I am grateful to IMECE for all the support they have provided to me so far. Even though my immigration status is still insecure I don't feel too scared because they continue to support me and I know I that I am not alone."