



Summary: Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards

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for services working with black and minority ethnic women and girls and harmful practices: forced marriage, female genital mutilation and 'honour-based' violence

The Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards (IAQS) for working with violence against black and minority ethnic (BME) women provide a quality framework that captures the expertise and on-going development of specialist BME violence against women and girls (VAWG) organisations. They focus on specific forms of violence that disproportionately affect BME women and girls and are sometimes referred to as 'harmful practices', specifically forced marriage, female genital mutilation and 'honour-based' violence, and are also applicable to all forms of violence against women and girls experienced by BME women.

The Imkaan Accredited Quality Standards were successfully piloted in January 2014 and the full standards were officially launched in March 2014.

Key elements

- ▶ Quality
- ▶ Equalities & human rights
- ▶ Specialist BME VAWG services
- ▶ Harmful practices set within the wider context of VAWG
- ▶ Standardisation
- ▶ Expertise
- ▶ Accreditation

The Standards

1. Knowledge

Standard outcome: The agency demonstrates appropriate knowledge and approaches to violence against women and girls within an equality framework that understands and recognises the impact and dynamics associated with forced marriage, female genital mutilation and 'honour-based' violence as harmful practices and forms of violence against black and minority ethnic women and girls.

2. Needs assessment

Standard outcome: The agency provides formalised approaches to identifying, assessing and managing overall need within a holistic continuum, and prioritises particular safety aspects for staff and service users, including risk assessment methods that integrate and respond to the complexities of community, familial and multiple perpetrator risk.



3. Woman-centred

Standard outcome: The agency adopts a woman-centric approach and promotes the gendered context of forced marriage, female genital mutilation and 'honour-based' violence as harmful practices and forms of violence against women and girls. Agency also ensures refuge provision, advocacy, support, outreach and other services are provided for BME women and girls and staffed by BME women within a safe, woman-centred environment.

4. Ethnocultural relevance

Standard outcome: The agency's services are appropriate and accessible to the diversity of black and minority ethnic women and girls. Service provision recognises the implications and impacts of colonisation and patriarchy, and demonstrates an understanding of the impact of racism and discrimination in the lives of women and girls within the context of violence.

5. Case management and support

Standard outcome: The agency provides independent support and/or case management that recognises the particular barriers faced by black and minority ethnic women and girls who experience harmful practices and forms of violence that impact on their overall well-being and health.

6. Prevention

Standard outcome: The agency promotes and engages in preventative approaches to harmful practices and violence against black and minority ethnic women and girls, which focus on early identification and intervention, community engagement, training and skills development for all staff.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Standard outcome: The agency has a framework in place for consistent effective monitoring and evaluation of black and minority ethnic women and girls experiencing harmful practices to improve detection and ensure the delivery of effective, high quality co-ordinated responses.

8. Integrated approaches

Standard outcome: The agency actively promotes and participates in multi-agency partnerships or working to ensure appropriate coordinated and effective collaborative responses to harmful practices and violence against women and girls.

9. Accountability and governance

Standard outcome: The agency provides effective governance and quality service delivery. Management structures and processes should promote effective leadership from black and minority ethnic leaders who are accountable for the agency and the quality of service received by black and minority ethnic service users. In addition, the agency provides support to a skilled staff team and accounts for quality assurance outcomes.