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Montgomery, M. (2019, March 7). Canadian Muslim organisation against "honour" crimes. Radio Canada International.

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Canadian Muslim organisation against "honour" crimes – RCI | English

Radio Canada International : 3-4 minutes : 3/7/2019



A new Canadian study on gender-based violence in the Muslim community was released this week. (Meagan Deuling)

Just released is a new study on gender-based violence (GBV) called, "[Dishonourable Violence: Changing the Narratives on Honour and Shame Among Muslim Canadian Communities](#)".

It is the product of [Islamic Relief Canada](#) a non-profit humanitarian aid group and came following a year of study of GBV within Canadian-based Muslim communities.

It is an analysis of the concepts within the Muslim community (and other patriarchal cultures) of "honour" and "shame".

The study of violence against women notes also that elements of the Qur'an are sometimes used to justify violence against women. (IRC)

The report notes that many Muslim women may be reluctant to speak about any violence or intimidation because of how that might reflect on the Muslim community, or on the family itself within the community, itself a form of bringing "shame" onto both. There is also the fear they might become isolated from their family if they expose violence.

It is not that Islam causes people to abuse, it's that some people who abuse use Islam to justify it (interviewee-Dishonourable Violence)

The book says violence can take a variety of form including:

- -psychological/emotional: coercion, insults, belittling, shaming, threats of violence divorce or exclusion
- -physical: hitting, slapping, genital mutilation, severe dress codes, limiting access to sufficient food, locking women inside the home
- -sex: forced sex, violent sex, forced marriage, denied control over reproductive matters
- -isolation.neglect: locking woman inside home, restricted activities (eg phone calls, movement outside home), restricted social contacts,
- -economic: withdrawal of financial support, denial of acces to finance, given a strict "allowance", forced handover of earnings, excessive scrutiny of expenses
- -spiritual/religious: misinterpretation of Qur'an to encourage and/or justify abuse, reinforcing climate of control and fear, chastisement using religious/spiritual language

- -control of legal/migration status: forced marriage, confiscation of legal documents eg-passport, threats to "send back to home country" if abuse not tolerated or male demands not met, woman returned to home country and abandoned

The document also notes that the stresses of immigration to a new and much different society, employment issues, and the fact that some people and families arrive from conflict zones perhaps already suffering from degrees of trauma, any and all of which may play out in violence against close family members.

More importantly however, the study shows how religious texts are being misinterpreted to justify domination and gender-based violence.

The organisation says they are clearly against gender-based violence in all forms and document is designed to shed light and direction on the issue.

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