



The Haven Wolverhampton are part of the West Midlands Specialist Domestic Abuse Consortium along with Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid, Coventry Haven and Black Country Women's Aid.

As part of the consortium we deliver the 'Our Girl' campaign. 'Our Girl' is a forced marriage prevention film that acts as a central resource for the Our Girl national prevention and awareness campaign, raising awareness with the clear message that forcing someone to marry against their will is a breach of basic human rights.

This has been delivered in Wolverhampton by delivering talks, workshops and training in schools, universities, communities and frontline professionals. The Haven Wolverhampton have raised awareness and promoted rights to equip young people and professionals with knowledge of Forced Marriage and prevention measures by delivering talks and workshops to 500 students in Wolverhampton as well as over 100 frontline professionals.

The West Midlands Specialist Domestic Abuse Consortium held a very successful conference addressing forced marriage & honour based violence called 'Learning from Survivor Voices' on Thursday 16th February 2017 with over 200 people attending. The key messages that were addressed included; Forced marriage & honour based violence is part of the spectrum of violence against women and girls, the one chance rule, risk rises exponentially when the victim starts resisting, forced marriage is not just a South Asian issue, training and awareness has to be constant, women want safe pathways to support.

We would like to thank the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office & the national 'Our Girl' FM/HBV campaign for funding this conference & Inspector Wendy Bird from the West Midlands Police for the venue.

The 14th July is the birthday of Shafiea Ahmed, the 17 year old grade 'A' student who was killed by her parents for being too westernised and who rejected a forced marriage. The day is now a national day of remembrance to

honour victims of honour killings. To mark this national day of remembrance, West Midlands Police will be inviting officers and professionals to attend a regional conference on Friday 14th July 2017. This event has been organised by West Midlands Police Team Sentinel as part of Our Girl. Please contact Trudy Gittens on t.gittins@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk for more information.