

SafeLives Dash risk checklist for use by Idvas and other non-police agencies¹ for identification of risks when domestic abuse, 'honour'- based violence and/or stalking are disclosed

<p>Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.</p> <p>Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.</p> <p>It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is not the case, please indicate in the right hand column</p>	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
<p>1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? Please state what and whether this is the first injury.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>2. Are you very frightened? Comment:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? Please give an indication of what you think [name of abuser(s)] might do and to whom, including children. Comment:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>4. Do you feel isolated from family/friends? ie, does [name of abuser(s)] try to stop you from seeing friends/family/doctor or others? Comment: <i>I can't get to the Mosque for community activities such as the elders group and weddings. I don't get out to the shops any more.</i></p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts? <i>I just feel really low and sad most of the time</i></p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>6. Have you separated or tried to separate from [name of abuser(s)] within the past year? <i>I did say I feel bad he has to live with his old mum</i></p>		X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>7. Is there conflict over child contact?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>8. Does [name of abuser(s)] constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you? Please expand to identify what and whether you believe that this is done deliberately to intimidate you? Consider the context and behaviour of what is being done.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>10. Is the abuse happening more often?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>11. Is the abuse getting worse?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	

¹ Note: This checklist is consistent with the ACPO endorsed risk assessment model DASH 2009 for the police service.

<p>12. Does [name of abuser(s)] try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? For example: in terms of relationships; who you see; being 'policed' at home; telling you what to wear. Consider 'honour'-based violence (HBV) and specify behaviour.</p> <p><i>I have to be careful. Bilal is very fussy about food – I have to cook it right. He won't let me use the washing machine or leave lights on. He like things done a certain way.</i></p>	X			
<p>13. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>14. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? If yes, tick who:</p> <p>You <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Children <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.</p>	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info
<p>15. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever attempted to strangle / choke / suffocate / drown you?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>16. Does [name of abuser(s)] do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else? If someone else, specify who.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>17. Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of? If yes, please specify whom and why. Consider extended family if HBV.</p> <p><i>I was afraid of Tariq sometimes – but he has passed away</i></p>		X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>18. Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has hurt anyone else? Consider HBV. Please specify whom, including the children, siblings or elderly relatives:</p> <p>Children <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Another family member <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Someone from a previous relationship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>His ex-wife</i></p> <p>Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/></p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>19. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>20. Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on [name of abuser(s)] for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?</p> <p><i>Bilal collects my pension and uses it to buy food and pay the bills – I don't have any money of my own.</i></p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>21. Has [name of abuser(s)] had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life? If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known.</p> <p>Drugs <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mental health <input type="checkbox"/></p>		X		
<p>22. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened or attempted suicide? <i>Bilal threatened to kill himself to his ex-wife – she told me once.</i></p>	X			

<p>23. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever broken bail/an injunction and/or formal agreement for when they can see you and/or the children?</p> <p>You may wish to consider this in relation to an ex-partner of the perpetrator if relevant.</p> <p>Bail conditions <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Non Molestation/Occupation Order <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Child contact arrangements <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Forced Marriage Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>		X		
<p>24. Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history?</p> <p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>Domestic abuse <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sexual violence <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other violence <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Total 'yes' responses				6

For consideration by professional

<p>Is there any other relevant information (from victim or professional) which may increase risk levels? Consider victim’s situation in relation to disability, substance misuse, mental health issues, cultural / language barriers, ‘honour’- based systems, geographic isolation and minimisation. Are they willing to engage with your service? Describe.</p>	<p><i>Ayesha has chronic joint pain. She cannot walk far and so cannot leave the house.</i></p> <p><i>Bilal controls her pension and so she is completely dependent on him for food, groceries and household bills being paid. He won't spend money on transport for her.</i></p>
<p>Consider abuser’s occupation / interests. Could this give them unique access to weapons? Describe.</p>	<p><i>Unemployed</i></p>
<p>What are the victim’s greatest priorities to address their safety?</p>	<p><i>Does not feel unsafe</i></p>

<p>Do you believe that there are reasonable grounds for referring this case to Marac?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>If yes, have you made a referral?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Signed</p>	<p><i>Mahraïd Doherty</i></p>
<p>Do you believe that there are risks facing the children in the family?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>If yes, please confirm if you have made a referral to safeguard the children?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Signed</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>Name</p>	<p>Date referral made</p>

Practitioner’s notes

In my view, Bilal is using elements of coercive control to maintain his position in the house. These include:

- *Threats and intimidation (shouting)*
- *Isolation (preventing Ayesha from socialising)*
- *Controlling aspects of Ayesha's life (e.g. which areas of the house she can go into – explicitly and implicitly)*
- *Financial abuse (restricting Ayesha's access to her pension)*
- *Denial of basic needs (e.g. not allowing her to use the washing machine and not supporting her to go to the doctor about pain).*

I have recorded a safeguarding concern and the case will be progressed to enable Ayesha to prevent Bilal's restrictions having a negative impact on her health and well-being

This document reflects work undertaken by SafeLives in partnership with Laura Richards, Consultant Violence Adviser to ACPO. We would like to thank Advance, Blackburn with Darwen Women's Aid and Berkshire East Family Safety Unit and all the partners of the Blackpool Marac for their contribution in piloting the revised checklist without which we could not have amended the original SafeLives risk identification checklist. We are very grateful to Elizabeth Hall of CAF/CASS and Neil Blacklock of Respect for their advice and encouragement and for the expert input we received from Jan Pickles, Dr Amanda Robinson and Jasvinder Sanghera.