



The Sky Project Newsletter

Tackling the issue of Forced Marriage and 'So Called' Honour Based Abuse.

Happy New Year from all The Sky Project Team!



Thank you to the entire Sky Project Team, Trustees and all their supporters. Particular thanks to:

Sabeena Pirooz (Director)
Farook Sarfraz (Trustee and Founder)
Shagufta Iqbal (Trustee)
Zara Liedl (Volunteer) and
Charlotte Gage.

Most, if not all our time is done on a voluntary basis as we are committed to fighting this cause. It is a credit to the above people in continuing this fight whilst working alongside their other existing jobs and family commitments.

A lack of awareness and training remains one of the biggest issues in reducing the number of forced marriage cases. Training is essential in providing a basic understanding, particularly to those in the front line to help prevent forced marriages from taking place.

We would also like to thank all our supporters, individual donors and funders who have ensured that we can continue this important work.

2020 has certainly been a difficult and challenging year for most of us, but particularly victims of Forced Marriage and 'Honour' Based Abuse. Many helplines have seen an increase in calls with some reporting a 200% increase during the pandemic, a 'surge' as a result of lockdown. Our services are needed now more than ever.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

1. TRAINING



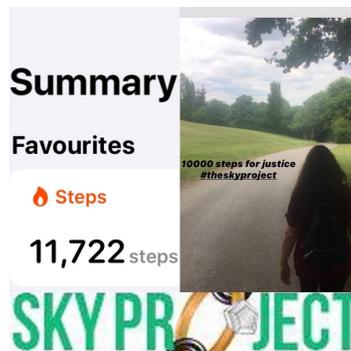
Although The Sky Project had a number of cancelled accredited training sessions as a result of the pandemic, the team has managed to adapt to a 'new normal' by transferring their face-to-face sessions to delivery via Zoom. They have managed to deliver training to approximately 300 people. That's 300 extra people being made aware of Forced Marriage and 'Honour' Based Abuse and 300 people who now have the confidence to act and save lives.

2. FUNDING



The Sky Project was elated to receive donations from the Jomati Foundation (run by Tony Williams) and the National Lottery to continue their work. The National Lottery was a huge success in particular and the project's largest funding received to date. Special thanks also go to KBSP, Irwin Mitchell and Cardiff & Vale University Health Board for their donations.

3. FUNDRAISING



Zara Liedl walked over 10,000 steps to raise money for The Sky Project. Zara's determination raised a significant sum to continue our work.

4. FAROOK SARFRAZ - NEXT ACCREDITED TRAINER



Farook Sarfraz, our founder returned to the Project and became a newly appointed accredited Trainer. He has already delivered a number of sessions to trainee GPs.

5. BLACK LIVES MATTER



Sabeena Pirooz, Director of the Sky Project made a bold statement regarding the 'Black Lives Matter' movement and the effect that this could have on forced marriage victims. *'Racism and racial/cultural prejudices'* she stated *'deny a voice to those who need help the most, including victims and those at risk of a forced marriage'*.

6. DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



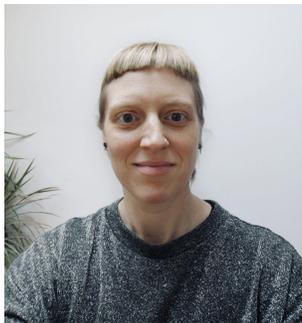
On 14th July 2020, The Sky Project team remembered 'Honour' Based Abuse victims on the Day of Remembrance. This commemorated the birthday of Shafiea Ahmed, murdered at 17 by her parents for refusing a forced marriage.

7. AWARDS



Sabeena Pirooz was nominated for the Inspirational Women in Law Awards for her work for The Sky Project. Although not a win on the evening of 5th November 2020, Sabeena was proud to reach the finals and hear inspirational speeches from a number of women including Cherie Blair.

8. NEW RECRUIT



The Sky Project also welcomed a new recruit, Charlotte Gage who has a vast range of experience in women's rights, equality and human rights. Charlotte will be working her way up to be an accredited trainer and was recruited due to the demands of training needs in the area.

9. FORCED MARRIAGE WORKING GROUP



The Sky Project has restarted and are chairing the Forced Marriage Working Group in Bristol. This includes multi-agency working with a range of professionals to share best practice with a view to reduce the number of forced marriages and 'Honour' based abuse cases in the South West.

Thank you to everyone involved, particularly those mentioned. Our project relies on donations, so we would welcome any donation to continue our work. We value every sum given. Thank you and Happy New Year!

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

www.skyproject.org.uk

