

DAME JASVINDER SANGHERA DBE

Author & advocate for women's rights in the UK



Jasvinder was fifteen when she ran away from home to escape a forced marriage to a much older man she'd never met. She had to move constantly, wary of being tracked down for betraying her family's honour. Her three years in hiding ended with the news that her sister had committed suicide by setting herself alight. Her story is one of terrible oppression, a harrowing struggle against a punitive code of honour and finally, triumph over adversity.

She is the founder of [Karma Nirvana](#), a national award winning charity that supports both men and women affected by honour based abuse and forced marriages. She is a highly acclaimed international speaker and an expert advisor to the courts in matters of child, civil and criminal proceedings, is a chair of domestic homicide reviews and was instrumental in ensuring that all UK police forces are required to improve their understanding of honour based abuse and forced marriage by inspections conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. Her memoir [Shame](#) was a Sunday Times Top 10 Bestseller.

Jasvinder is recognised as bringing the issue of forced marriage into the public domain and Prime Minister David Cameron stated that her work 'turned my head on the issue of forced marriage'. Her work is recognised as being pivotal to the creation of a specific UK forced marriage criminal offence in 2014. She has received numerous awards including the prestigious Woman of the Year 2007. She was made an Honorary Doctor of the University of Derby in 2008. She was awarded The Pride of Britain Award in 2009 and was named Cosmopolitan Ultimate Woman of the Year in 2010. In 2011 she was listed in the Guardian's top 100 Most Inspirational Women in the World and in 2012 received the Global Punjabi Award. She was awarded Commander of the British Empire in 2013 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the victims of forced marriage and honour based abuse and also featured in the British institution 'Desert Island Discs'. In 2014 she was awarded Legal Campaigner of the Year and in 2016 received the International Woman Award for human rights from the Italian media.

She has appeared on, amongst others, BBC's *HardTalk* and ITV's *This Morning* and is regularly called upon as talking head by the media on cases relating to this field.

Eloquent and vivacious, Jasvinder tells her story with humour and humanity while providing a fascinating insight into issues of honour in the Asian community.

Themes

Adversity, Change, Diversity & Equality, Human Rights & Philanthropy, Motivation