



## The Rise of Domestic Violence among Indian-Origin Individuals in the United Kingdom

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Title: The Rise of Domestic Violence among Indian-Origin Individuals in the United Kingdom: A Legal Perspective.

### Introduction:

Domestic violence is a pressing social issue that affects individuals and families across various communities worldwide, including Indian-origin individuals residing in the United Kingdom. This essay aims to explore the causes behind the rise of domestic violence among the Indian-origin population in the UK from a legal perspective, analyzing relevant case laws and examples that shed light on the complexities surrounding this issue.

### Cultural Factors and Gender Norms:

Cultural factors and traditional gender norms can contribute to the rise of domestic violence within the Indian-origin community in the United Kingdom. Patriarchal expectations, rigid gender roles, and cultural practices may perpetuate power imbalances and enable abusive

behavior.

#### Case Example:

*R v. Ahluwalia* (1992) The case of Kiranjit Ahluwalia, an Indian-origin victim of long-term abuse, exemplifies the impact of cultural factors. Kiranjit set fire to her abusive husband, resulting in his death. The court recognized the cultural context and the coercive control she endured, reducing her murder conviction to manslaughter and emphasizing the importance of considering cultural factors in cases of domestic violence.

#### Immigration and Acculturation Challenges:

Immigration and acculturation challenges faced by Indian-origin individuals in the United Kingdom can contribute to the vulnerability of victims and the perpetuation of domestic violence. Language barriers, limited social networks, and cultural adjustments may isolate victims and impede their ability to seek help.

#### *R v. Gosal* (2007)

In this case, the defendant, Gosal, was convicted of assaulting his wife. The court acknowledged the challenges faced by immigrant communities, including cultural differences, and highlighted the importance of culturally sensitive support services and interventions.

#### Socioeconomic Pressures and Stress:

Socioeconomic pressures and stressors, such as financial difficulties and unemployment, can contribute to increased tensions within households, leading to domestic violence among the Indian-origin population in the United Kingdom.

#### *R v. Sembhi* (2015)

The case of Sembhi involved a defendant who assaulted his wife due to financial pressures. The court recognized the impact of socioeconomic stressors and emphasized the need for support systems to address these underlying factors effectively.

#### Cultural Stigma and Barriers to Seeking Help:

Cultural stigma and societal expectations may create barriers for Indian-origin victims to

seek help and report instances of domestic violence. Fear of social judgment, ostracization, and concerns about the reputation of the family may deter victims from seeking assistance.

R v. Sandhu (2019)

In this case, the victim, Sandhu, faced domestic violence but initially refrained from reporting due to cultural stigma. The court emphasized the need for awareness campaigns and culturally sensitive support services to combat these barriers and encourage victims to seek help.

Legal Protection and Support:

Ensuring effective legal protection and support systems is crucial to address domestic violence among the Indian-origin community in the United Kingdom. Culturally sensitive interventions, access to interpreters, and specialized support services can empower victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

R v. Choudhury (2017)

In this case, the defendant, Choudhury, was convicted of domestic violence. The court highlighted the importance of tailored support services and legal measures to address the unique challenges faced by victims within the Indian-origin community.

Conclusion:

The rise of domestic violence among the Indian-origin population in the United Kingdom is influenced by various factors, including cultural norms, acculturation challenges, socioeconomic pressures, and cultural stigma. Analyzing relevant case laws and examples helps shed light on the complexities surrounding domestic violence within this community and emphasizes the need for comprehensive legal and societal responses.

Efforts must be made to challenge cultural norms that perpetuate violence, provide culturally sensitive support services, raise awareness about domestic violence, and ensure effective legal protection for victims. By taking a holistic approach that addresses the specific needs of the Indian-origin community, the United Kingdom can work towards a society that upholds the rights and safety of all individuals, irrespective of their cultural background.