

Rashid Begum

Rashid Begum is a survivor of honour-based violence (HBV) and attempted forced marriage, and has dedicated her professional and private life to ensuring that others at risk are protected. Rashid passionately believes in the importance of demonstrating what women and girls can do if they are allowed to be free to exercise their rights without violence, oppression and fear. As a survivor, solicitor and former police officer and with over 12 years' experience of working for the police service, she was seconded to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to work on the first investigation into HBV policing across England and Wales.

Rashid ensured that the issues, challenges and victimology of HBV were understood, and successfully commissioned an academic institution to undertake a victim engagement project so that survivor's experiences and perspectives were heard. She also facilitated the involvement of experts, including Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), and ensured that these experts were closely consulted throughout.

She has dedicated her professional life to ending HBV, committing much of her spare time to self-funded work supporting victims and survivors, and delivering training and awareness-raising, nationally and internationally.