

Domestic Servitude and Domestic Abuse

Jennifer Allison
Shagufta Naseem



Signs and indicators

Victims can be a spouse, partner, child, family member, male, female, young or old, UK national, Foreign National.

- No independent income or access to ID documents.
- Accompanied when outside the house - Little independence.
- Showing signs of trauma - Physical and emotional.
- Completing all of the household chores, often for several family members and unable to refuse
- Being “on call” 24/7 - Could range from household chores to caring for family members.

Signs and indicators

- Not eating with the rest of the family and not having the same quantity or quality of food - Show signs of being malnourished.
- Not allowed unsupervised contact with own family members or friends.
- Restricted access to bathroom or to other areas of the house.
- Not allowed to seek independent medical treatment (or family accompany as 'interpreter')
- Have no bedroom or bed
- Conditioned not to engage with the authorities - Fearful of the authorities

Case Study

Sharon (not her real name) is a British National she is 32 years old and had no children. When we first met Sharon she told us:

- She was forced to work at a shop that belonged to her husband's friend.
- Her earnings were given to her husband.
- She had to clean and cook at the marital home where she lived with her husband's family.
- She was taken to her sister-in-law's houses and forced to clean there.
- Sharon was physically abused on a regular basis by her husband and other family members especially if she refused to do tasks.