

# Annex F: Case-Studies

## Submitted By Jeena International

### A

British born A a 25 years old is third generation Indian, undertook the decision to have an abortion based on gender, not because of domestic violence or duress by any of her in laws or husband, but for various complex cultural reasons both self imposed and community imposed, she thought by giving birth to a boy she would be accepted into the family, she would therefore have a status, her father in law was the only son and her husband too was an only son, this compounded her belief that it was expected for her to have a son to carry on the family name too -lineage. A registered at an ante-natal clinic and attended all appointments, when she was 18/19 weeks and went for a private scan at Harley St, as a result of the scan that she was expecting a girl. The next day A booked an appointment to have an abortion, she told a doctor it was because she could not afford to have a baby. Ante-natal clinic called to chase her missed appointment, A informed them that she had miscarried when she was on holiday. A at the age of 29 was again expecting however this time twins she then repeated the cycle of aborting on the basis of gender.

### B

Bangladeshi born B came to the UK on a spousal visa at the age of 19, soon afterwards she became pregnant her pregnancy was very traumatic as she became a victim of domestic violence as her husband wanted to know if she was carrying a son, she gave birth to a healthy girl, however the domestic violence increased until eventually she left him and was at an women's refuge.

### C

C was born in Pakistan and was her in the UK as a dependent EU spouse, she fell pregnant soon after the birth of her first child that was a girl, during a routine ultra scan her husband asked what the sex of the baby was and was told a girl. During the drive home there was pin drop silence in the car, when they arrived home C starting to prepare the evening meal in the kitchen, trying to silence her daughter at the same time as she was crying, as she knew her husband was not happy and was angry as she was expecting another girl. She remembers him repeatedly punching and kicking her in the stomach and passing out, when she regained consciousness her husband had walked out and sent her divorce papers a couple of months later.

## D

After D's third girl was born he had repeated pressure to divorce his wife as she had given birth to another girl. He was told that he would be disinherited and would be ostracised from the family, coupled with the fact he was the only son he felt he had no other choice but to divorce his wife. He then travelled to India and remarried. He is consumed with guilt over his first wife and children, angry with his parents and hates his new wife.

## E

E was born in Kenya and was of Indian heritage, she had an arranged marriage and moved to the UK. During the her pregnancy she had complications whereby she was rushed to hospital and had an emergency caesarean, she gave birth to a girl that was almost 3 months early and weighed 1 ½ lbs she was in a special care unit. When her father in law came to see them in hospital he remarked as to how disappointed he was in her as she had given birth to a girl.

## F

F decided to abort her third child as she was expecting a girl, even though her she had two boys as she thought giving birth to a girl would be too traumatic. F was the eldest of six girls and she recalls each time that her mother went to the hospital of how disappointed everyone was when each time it was a girl. This experience traumatised and consumed her so much that the thought of giving birth to a girl meant disappointment, betrayal and lowered status with in the family and the community. She remembers vividly when her marriage was being arranged of how reluctant the community was to look for a perspective partner as she was the eldest of six girls, she was met were either sympathy or caution as she may not be able to bear a son herself. F made a painful decision to abort which she now regrets as she felt that she had no other choice as her childhood was full of disappointment directed at her mother producing daughters and she herself was a disappointment as she was a girl too.

## G

G visited India to find out what the sex of her baby was when finding out it was a girl she had an abortion. G's second pregnancy she visited private clinic to determine the sex of the baby she was carrying, on discovering that it was a girl, she informed her GP that she wanted an abortion, as she could not afford to have a baby, an abortion was offered and carried out. On finding out for the third time G ordered a blood test to determine the sex of the baby again it was a girl and she again visited her GP and an abortion was offered and carried out.