



## Call for Action on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July - Memorial Day for victims of Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence

The **14th July** marks the birthday of Shafila Ahmed who sadly lost her life in 2003 aged 17. After suffering years of honour-based violence, including an attempted forced marriage, Shafila's parents suffocated her to death in front of her siblings. After trying to force the girl to accept an arranged marriage they were afraid her refusal would bring shame on the family. Unfortunately, Shafila was not alone.

An estimated **5,000 women across the world** are killed each year for bringing 'shame' upon their families; but the true number is thought to be far higher, as many simply 'disappear' due to honour codes within communities. Also, an **estimated 64,000 young girls** will be forced to marry before they complete 18 years old.

Karma Nirvana is an organization that supports victims and survivors of Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence. It played an important role last year by campaigning for the criminalization of Forced Marriage in the UK. Karma Nirvana's launched the Lost Women campaign and a Change.org petition was launched in May 2014 urging everyone to pledge their support for an annual memorial day. **Over 115,000 signatures** were secured. Karma Nirvana is also hosting a survivors' conference that brings together women who have experienced honour based violence and forced marriages. They will for the first time share their personal experiences and make their voices heard. This is in recognition of their personal experiences of how they have often not been heard within their families, communities and by professionals.

We are asking to all National Coordination Bodies from the World March Of Women to join and mark this day allowing this struggle to become global. You can help us by on that day and in the week leading up to it get involved raising the awareness of FM and HBV. You can organize a minute of noise which could be a literal noise where people film themselves making noise for a minute and posting it on you tube, Facebook or tweeter. Let's speak out on the social media for more impact... On the 14th July we can flood the social networks to claim for the immediate stop of Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence.

Let's tweet and post on facebook the following message:

**Honour killings are the real shame. Stop killing women in name of culture.**

**Join the action, let's save women's lives!**

\*For further information please contact [vaniamartinss@gmail.com](mailto:vaniamartinss@gmail.com)

\* In order to globalize our struggle and contribute to our 4th International Action, kindly send your photos, videos, and other materials to [info@marchemonde.org](mailto:info@marchemonde.org), indicating in the subject of the email: Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence.