



Case Study 1

I'm British and married a man in Europe after a mutual friend introduced us. I sponsored him to come to the UK. Soon after, the abuse started. He threw something at me and slapped me during an argument. I was shocked, hurt. I told him to leave because I didn't accept this behaviour. He went and brought mutual friends from our community to mediate and ask for my forgiveness. I forgave him.

As our relationship continued, the abuse escalated. There was a time I was in the car with him and a friend. I asked him to stop so I can buy some snacks. He shouted at me and slammed my head against the car seat. Our mutual friend stepped in and asked him to stop.

He recorded us having sex and threatened to show it to people if I didn't support his immigration application.

He was always swearing and shouting at me. Saying I was ugly and that no one would want me. Saying that I would die alone, and I should be grateful for him.

I am disabled and relied on him to help and support me. He offered to give me my medication every day. But, I noticed that my body was reacting negatively to medication I have taken for years. I was getting more and more drowsy. When I checked, I realised he made a mistake with my medication. I confronted him. He said it was a mistake and apologised. I loved him, trusted him and believed him. But now I don't think it was.

One day we had a big argument. He pushed me and I fell. He took my mobility car, some jewellery and left. I was scared and shocked. I called the ambulance who then called the police. I reported all of the abuse and threats.

The police came and took my statement but it took a long time for them to arrange to take a video statement regarding the sexual abuse. I had to call them more than once for updates about my car because the insurance company were threatening to take me to court. Regarding my jewellery, the police said they cannot find it. I was stressed. Not only from my traumatic experience and my underlying health conditions but the police weren't making it easy for me.

The investigation was slow. Another incident happened and I reported it to the police. They didn't arrest my ex for breaching the non-molestation order and didn't give me updates. When I'd call 101, they would say speak to your allocated officer. When I email him, he doesn't answer me nor my IDVA. They didn't work. I gave them my friend's details who was in the car when I was assaulted. The police didn't contact him. The police said they wanted my mobile to download messages. It took them months to arrange this.



Questions:

- 1- As a DV victim who suffers from multiple barriers – Language (English is her second language), BAME, disabled – What can the police do to improve their response?
- 2- As professionals, we keep speaking about why the CCR is important in some way (Coordinated Community Response)- So why are services not working more closely together? Housing, police, IDVA, health?