

# Chapter 12

## Legacy of Silence: Exploring Honour Killings in the Tapestry of Jewish and Medieval European History

**Pradeep Kumar**

*Vivekanada College of Law, Aligarh, India*

**Anushka Bhaskar**

*Amity University, Noida, India*

### **ABSTRACT**

*In “Legacy of Silence,” we embark on a profound exploration of the grim phenomenon of honour killings, particularly as it intertwines with the intricate historical fabrics of Jewish and Medieval European societies. This chapter seeks to shed light on a topic often shrouded in obscurity and misunderstanding, drawing connections between past traditions and the remnants of these practices in contemporary societies. By delving into the historical contexts of Jewish and Medieval European (Brundage & James A, 1987) cultures, we aim to uncover the roots, manifestations, and enduring impacts of honour killings in these societies. This exploration is not only a journey through time but also a critical examination of the cultural, religious, and social underpinnings that have perpetuated such acts of violence.*

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter employs a qualitative research methodology to explore the complex issue of honour killings within Jewish and Medieval European contexts, as well as their broader implications in contemporary societies. A combination of primary

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and secondary sources was used to develop a comprehensive understanding of the subject. Data was collected from various sources, including historical archives, library records, newspapers, magazines, interviews with historians, legal experts, and activists, and online databases. Primary data was gathered through interviews and surveys with individuals possessing expertise in the areas of history, law, human rights, and cultural studies. These perspectives provided valuable insights into the historical and cultural factors influencing honour killings. Secondary sources, such as scholarly articles, books, and reports from human rights organizations, were used to support the research findings and contextualize the historical roots of honour killings. The methodology was designed to minimize bias by carefully considering participant characteristics such as ethnicity, gender, and age. Furthermore, the research adopted a human rights framework, focusing on honour killings as a violation of the right to life with dignity.

## KEY TERMS

“Honour Killing” (Assistant Professor R.K & S. Assistant Professor, 2019) central to the chapter, this term refers to the practice of murder committed by family members to restore or protect family honour, linking historical and contemporary instances of this violence. “Historical Context of Honour Killings” (Rana Hussein, n.d., 2021) this term examines the historical settings in Jewish and Medieval European societies where honour killings occurred, providing a backdrop for understanding their evolution and impact. “Jewish Legal Traditions” (Askhistorians, 2013) refers to the specific legal and cultural norms within Jewish communities that influenced honour and familial control practices. “Medieval European Norms” (Spierenburg, 2008) focuses on the societal and legal norms of Medieval Europe that shaped attitudes towards honour and violence, including feudal and religious influences. “Gender-Based Violence” (Amt, 2013) highlights the broader category of violence, including honour killings, that is inflicted based on gender, providing a framework for understanding its prevalence and impact. “Social Norms and Honour” (Cohen, D., 1998) explores the rigid societal expectations and cultural norms surrounding honour in historical contexts, and how these norms perpetuated acts of violence. “Human Rights” (Assembly, 2003) examines how honour killings constitute a violation of fundamental human rights, including the right to life and dignity, linking historical practices with modern human rights concerns.

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