

# Chapter 14

## A Critical Study of Honor–Related Violence in Germany

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This chapter delves into the multifaceted issue of honor-related violence in Germany, examining the responsibilities of families, the state, and civic entities in preventing such crimes. It begins by defining honor-related violence, emphasizing that it is a significant social problem that predominantly affects women and often stems from patriarchal notions of family honor. The chapter scrutinizes the concept of “honor killing,” exploring whether Islamic teachings support or condemn this practice. It elucidates that while some perpetrators may claim religious justification, mainstream Islamic theology and scholars overwhelmingly reject honor killings as un-Islamic and contrary to the principles of justice and compassion. By investigating the root causes, the chapter identifies factors such as patriarchal cultural norms, social pressures, and the struggle to maintain traditional values within a Western context as key drivers of honor-related violence.*

The role of the state is critically examined, focusing on the legal framework, law enforcement practices, and social services designed to protect potential victims and prosecute offenders. The effectiveness of these measures is assessed, highlighting both successes and areas needing improvement. The chapter underscores the

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significance of civic participation, arguing that community-based interventions, awareness campaigns, and support networks are essential in preventing honor-related crimes. It points to successful initiatives where local communities, NGOs, and social workers collaborate to provide education, support, and protection to at-risk individuals. Additionally, it addresses the challenge of forced marriages, presenting them as a form of honor-related abuse that necessitates comprehensive legal and social strategies to combat.

The dynamics within Muslim immigrant families are explored, noting that gender discrimination often stems from deeply ingrained cultural traditions rather than religious doctrines. The chapter contrasts families that rigidly adhere to these traditions with those that integrate more fluidly into German society, highlighting the diversity within the Muslim community. It acknowledges the tension between preserving cultural identity and adhering to Germanic values, proposing that a nuanced approach is necessary to bridge these differences. Finally, the chapter provides a detailed analysis of the German civil code, specifically the legal provisions that address honor-related violence. It outlines the punitive measures for perpetrators, illustrating how the legal system seeks to deter such crimes and deliver justice for victims.

The chapter concludes by advocating for a multi-pronged approach that combines legal action, social support, and community engagement to effectively combat honor-related violence. By integrating perspectives from law, sociology, and theology, this comprehensive analysis offers a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding honor-related crimes in Germany and proposes actionable solutions to protect vulnerable individuals and foster a more inclusive society. The chapter's holistic approach underscores the importance of addressing both the symptoms and the root causes of honor-related violence, advocating for a collaborative effort among families, the state, and civic society to create lasting change. In order to guarantee that the values of justice, equality, and human rights are respected and to provide a more secure and fair environment for everyone, regardless of their cultural or religious background, it asks for constant communication, education, and reform. By doing this critical analysis, the chapter hopes to add to the larger conversation about honor-related violence by providing information that will help shape practice, policy, and future studies in this important field.

Honor killings in Germany are not highly prevalent, but they remain a serious issue, particularly within certain immigrant communities. The data on such crimes are often underreported and may be categorized within broader domestic violence or cultural violence statistics. According to research, there have been approximately 70 honor killings reported in Germany between 1996 and 2005, indicating an ongoing concern (Kaya, n.d.). In 2023, it was reported that the rate of violent crimes, including those related to forced marriages and honor-based violence, has seen an

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