

Child abuse linked to Faith & Beliefs

DEBORAH UDAKIS CONSULTANCY LTD

Definition of child abuse linked to faith and beliefs (what do we mean).

- ▶ The belief in concepts of witchcraft and spirit possession, demons or the devil acting through children or leading them astray (traditionally seen in some Christian beliefs), the evil eye or djinns (traditionally known in some Islamic faith contexts) and dakini (in the Hindu context).
- ▶ Ritual or multi murders where the killing of children is believed to bring supernatural benefits or the use of their body parts is believed to produce potent magical remedies.
- ▶ The use of belief in magic or witchcraft to create fear in children to make them more compliant when they are being trafficked for domestic slavery or sexual exploitation.

Common factors and causes

- ▶ Belief in evil spirits
- ▶ Scapegoating
- ▶ Bad behaviour
- ▶ Physical & emotional differences
- ▶ Gifts and uncommon characteristics
- ▶ Complex family structure.

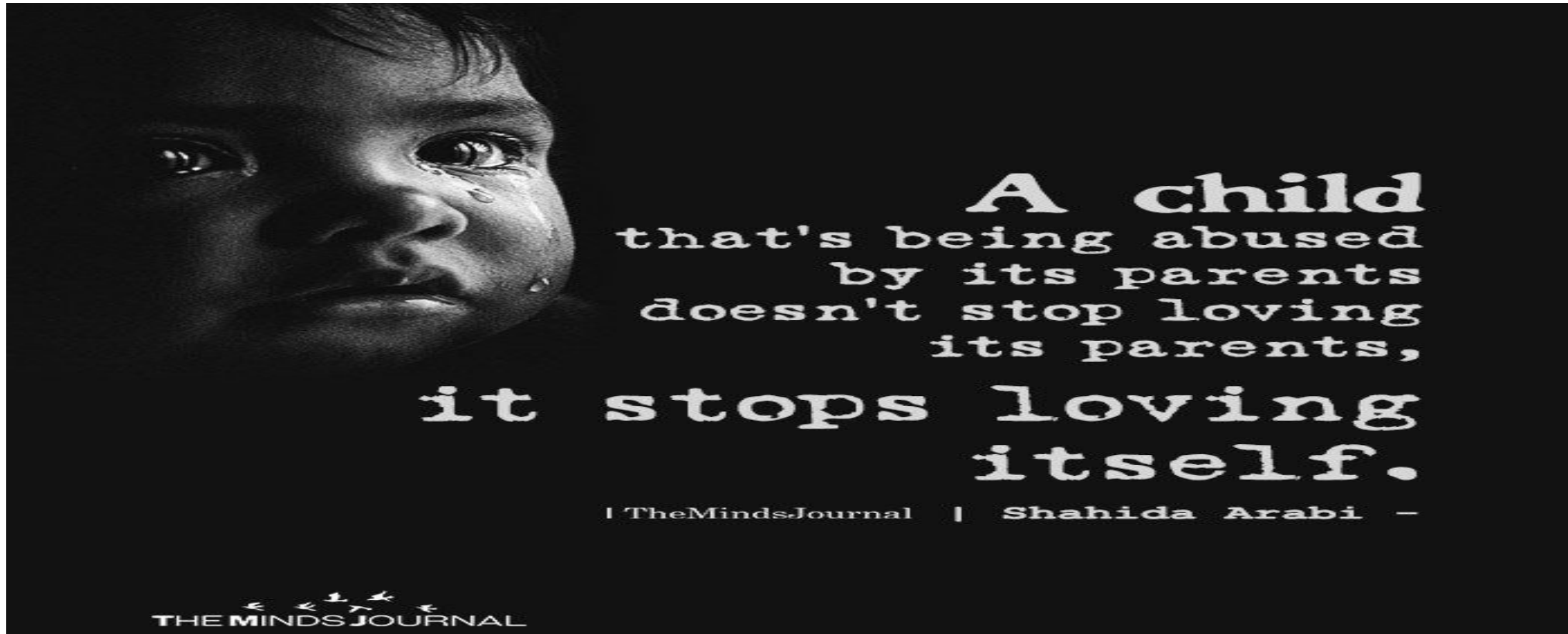


Forms of the abuse

- ▶ Physical Abuse
- ▶ Emotional Abuse
- ▶ Neglect
- ▶ Sexual Abuse



Where does the abuse occur?



What to look for?

- ▶ Physical injuries
- ▶ Key words
- ▶ Child's appearance
- ▶ Parent does not have bond with child
- ▶ Poor attendance
- ▶ Jewellery symbols / amulets

Victoria Climbié



THE VICTORIA CLIMBIÉ CASE

- There were 12 chances to save the life of this eight year old girl. Instead, she died of 128 injuries. How could a child in Britain die like this?



Victoria Climbié



As a result of this case the Government passed the Children Act in 2004 which provides the legislation for ensuring the safety and protection of children, young people and families.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtAfwENUUps>

Some questions to think about when starting to become concerned about a child.

- ▶ What are the beliefs of the family
- ▶ What is the family structure?
- ▶ Are there reasons why the child might be picked on?
- ▶ What is the preferred language of the child and family?

Reporting abuse



Follow your own safeguarding reporting procedures and those of the local authority.

Do not delay.

Remain professionally curious.

Useful links

[AFRUCA: Africans Unite Against Child Abuse](#)

A UK charity advocating the rights and welfare of African children.

[Barnardo's National FGM Centre](#)

This provides a comprehensive overview of CALFB. It covers what CALFB is, health implications, justifications for it, the law and signs that a child could be at risk

[Child trafficking Advice Centre \(CTAC\)](#)

A team that provides advice for professionals responsible for safeguarding children from trafficking.

[Thirtyone:eight](#)

An independent Christian charity which helps individuals, organisations, charities, faith and community groups to protect vulnerable people from abuse.

Phone: [0207 735 8941](tel:02077358941)

[VCF: The Victoria Climbié Foundation](#)

An organisation campaigning to improve child protection policies and practices.

[The Witchcraft and Human Rights Information Network](#)

WHRIN's work enables greater understanding and awareness of these complex issues so that solutions can be developed to prevent further violations of human rights from taking place

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