



Criminology

Summer Homework

Answer all of the questions below for **each** of the case studies in this document. You may need to use further reading/research to support you with your responses.

You can type or write your responses, and you **must** bring these with you to your first Criminology lesson.

Questions

1. What specific type of crime has been committed here? Provide a definition of this crime.
2. What other examples are there of this type of crime?
3. What specific law/s relate to this crime?
4. Who was the victim? Who are the common victims of this type of crime?
5. Who was the offender/s? Who are the common offenders of this type of crime?
6. Is the public awareness of this crime high or low? Why?
7. Is the public reporting of this crime high or low? Why?
8. What reasons (minimum of three) might a victim/witness give for not reporting this crime? Explain your responses.

Banaz Mahmud

Banaz Mahmud (16 December 1985 – 24 January 2006) was a 20-year-old Iraqi Kurdish woman from Mitcham, South London. She was murdered in 2006 on the orders of her family in a so-called honour killing because she ended a violent and abusive forced marriage and started a relationship with someone of her own choosing.



Banaz lived in London with her family. At 17-years-old, she was forced into a marriage by her parents with a man ten years her senior. The man repeatedly beat and raped her. She contacted the police on multiple occasions during her marriage. Her family were aware of the abuse but forced her to remain because of the shame they felt her leaving would bring them within their community.

In the summer of 2005, Banaz moved back to her parents' home. She met another man whom she liked. She wanted a divorce to marry the man she loved, but her father and uncle disapproved. In December 2005, Banaz contacted the police. She feared for her life. She had overheard her mother discussing with her uncle a family plot to kill her.

On New Year's Eve, Banaz's father tried to kill her. She smashed a window and fled. She went to the hospital for her injuries, where she told her boyfriend what had happened; he recorded her statement on his phone. Banaz was interviewed by a police officer who did not believe her account of events. According to the police officer, Banaz's account of the plot to kill her was a 'fantasy', and Banaz was 'manipulative' and 'melodramatic'. The police wanted to charge her with criminal damage for breaking the window - the police ignored Banaz's fears for her life.

A few weeks before her death, Banaz wrote to the police, naming the family members that she believed would kill her. She contacted the police on five occasions in the months before her death to report the threat to her life, but no safeguarding measures were taken.

On 24th January 2006, Banaz was meant to attend the police station, but she never arrived. Banaz was still at home when her parents left the house to go shopping. They informed three of her relatives that she was alone. The men arrived at the family home, raped, tortured and killed Banaz with a garrotte. Her body was put in a suitcase and buried in a garden in Birmingham.

The following day, unable to contact Banaz, her boyfriend reported her missing. His report was not taken seriously as her family told the police that she often stayed out. Her boyfriend persisted with the police, who interviewed her parents and uncle. Finally, in February 2006, one of the men pleaded guilty to murder, which led to the arrests of the other family members.

Banaz's body was found in April 2006. In 2007, Banaz's father and uncle were sentenced. Two of the other men were the first suspects ever extradited to Britain from Iraq and, in 2010, they, and the final family member who murdered Banaz were also sentenced – all three were her cousins. All the men involved received life imprisonment.

An Independent Police Complaints Commission report in April 2008 found Banaz had been "let down" by the police.

Stephen Lawrence

Stephen Lawrence was an 18-year-old sixth former when he was attacked on 22 April 1993.

Stephen and his friend Duwayne Brooks had been waiting at a bus stop in Eltham, London, when a gang of white teens shouted racial slurs at them, before attacking them. Though Brooks managed to escape unharmed, Lawrence was hit in the head with a bat and stabbed, leaving a 10-inch knife wound in his neck that caused arterial bleeding. The pair ran from their attackers, but Lawrence collapsed on the pavement. He died in hospital that same night. The case brought a focus to racial tension in the area. Lawrence was one of four Black youths to be murdered in the area in two years.



The next day, a letter was left in a telephone box giving the names of the suspects in the attack: Luke Knight, Gary Dobson, brothers Neil and Jamie Acourt and David Norris, who had been linked with other racist incidents and knife attacks in the area. Norris had, in fact, stabbed Stacey Benefield only a month before Lawrence's murder. All of the men were arrested and Neil Acourt and Knight were charged with murder after Duwayne Brooks had identified them.

Then in July, the charges against Acourt and Knight were dropped, as the CPS said Brooks' evidence was unreliable. By April the following year, the CPS was refusing to prosecute, on the grounds of insufficient evidence. Neville and Doreen Lawrence launched a private prosecution against Neil Acourt, Dobson and Knight, but the judge ruled that Brooks' identification evidence was inadmissible and the three teenagers were acquitted.

Almost four years after Stephen's death, his inquest continued. All five suspects appeared, but refused to answer questions. The verdict came back as an unlawful killing in an 'unprovoked racist attack by five youths'.

In 1997, an inquiry was opened into Stephen's death: the Macpherson Report. It concluded that the investigation had been 'marred by a combination of professional incompetence, institutional racism and a failure of leadership'. Officers within the Metropolitan police force were named, the force was criticised, and specific recommendations towards tackling racism in society were recommended. A number of the proposed changes in the Macpherson report were implemented - including legal reform allowing acquitted suspects to be retried if new evidence came to light. It was this that led to Dobson's trial and then conviction.

Although a new inquiry was opened in 1998, during which all five suspects were ordered to appear and give evidence (and were duly pelted by protestors), it wasn't until 2011 when two of the suspects, Dobson and Norris, were finally charged for the murder. They were found guilty on 4th January 2012 and were sentenced to detention at Her Majesty's Pleasure, equivalent to a life sentence for an adult, with minimum terms of 15 years and 2 months for Dobson and 14 years and 3 months for Norris. However, three of the five suspects have never been convicted for the crime.

There have been some important changes since Stephen's murder. The introduction of 'hate crimes' in the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act and the emphasis on the victim's perception of whether an offence was 'motivated by hostility or prejudice' demonstrates society's intolerance towards racism and empowered victims to report racist crimes. Stephen's parents' search for justice highlighted so many problems in policing that have not – and should never – be taken off the agenda.

Clare Wood

Clare's Law, also known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, is named after Clare Wood, a 36-year old woman from Yorkshire who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend George Appleton in 2009.



The pair initially began a relationship after meeting through Facebook. Clare finally ended the relationship after 10 months after finding out that Appleton had been having a number of affairs with other women he'd met online, as well as experiencing his coercive nature within their relationship. However, Appleton refused to move on, subjecting her to continuous abusive behaviour such as harassment, damage to property, threats of violence and attempted assault. Though Clare made a police statement and got a restraining order, Appleton's behaviour continued unchecked. It finally ended with him taking Clare's life.

On February 2nd 2009, four months after their relationship had ended, Clare was found dead at her home. She had been strangled and set on fire by Appleton. Police began hunting for Appleton after Clare's body was found. Appleton was found hanged in a derelict pub six days later. An inquest into his death found he committed suicide. Further investigation later revealed that Appleton had a history of targeting women online - and then terrorising them. He had a history of violent and abusive behaviour, particularly towards women, which Greater Manchester Police were aware of but had not disclosed to Clare. That revelation prompted Claire's father, Michael Brown, to campaign for a new law - one which would allow women to identify potentially violent partners.

At the time, data protection laws had created a legal loophole which meant that former abusers were able to keep their criminal records confidential. This meant potential targets like Clare had no way to check or ask police whether their partner had been similarly abusive in the past. Following her Clare's death, her father Michael Brown began a campaign to challenge this law. He believed that Clare would not have lost her life if she had been aware of Appleton's violent past.

After 5 years of campaigning, Michael Brown eventually managed to change the law to allow police to both disclose and proactively inform people of their partners' criminal records and relevant past convictions. Clare's Law was finally introduced in England and Wales in 2014 under the official title of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS).

