



Protecting Children across Culture and Faith is the protocol that VCF uses to ensure that the cultural needs of BME families are addressed within safeguarding policies and practice.

- **Legislation and guidance**
Putting guidance into practice
- **Linking key themes around culture and faith**
Let's not question 'belief' systems; work with families to highlight harmful practices to children
- **Recognising culture and faith**
Develop a culturally sensitive approach within wider safeguarding practice
- **Effective multi agency working**
The UK has a sound child protection framework; however good practice not yet standard practice!
- **The Way Forward**
Effective community engagement; developing partnership links between statutory agencies and the community; involving families in child protection processes e.g. serious case reviews

The legislation and guidance is not enough on its own, we need to put it into practice in order to make a difference and to further protect children, AND we need to ensure that it reflects the various cultural and faith aspects within BME communities.

Whilst we believe there is far more awareness around the indicators of faith-based abuse, there is still a fear of addressing these issues within child protection work, or in some instances, the lack of a culturally sensitive approach when working with BME families.

VCF is the leading independent organisation campaigning for improvements to child protection policies and practice, and to ensure effective links and coordination between statutory agencies and BME communities