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## **The Construction of European Policy Concerning Honor Based Violence: A Three-Part Account**

In my senior thesis, I would like to explore the interaction between European governments, immigrant Islamic communities, and the initiatives taken by said governments to integrate those communities into a greater social context. To do this, I would like to study the phenomenon of "Honor Killings" in three European countries: England, Sweden, and Germany. "Honor Killings", the murder of women who are accused of having dishonored themselves and their families, are on the rise in these countries, which are recognized as being some of the most progressive in women's rights in the world. I believe that the way in which these governments are dealing with the increase of "Honor Killings" within their borders will be indicative of inadequacies within the system of immigrant integration. I will focus my research on gender policy, historical trends, and first person narratives.

My thesis will be broken down into three distinct sections, with each being a geographical case study. England, Germany and Sweden, united by cultural and political similarities, have uniquely different immigration policies and histories. However, all share a socially progressive agenda. In each of these sections, I would like to initially provide a brief overview of the history of immigration in each country as well as survey of general demographics. Each country I have chosen has a unique blend of heterogeneity and homogeneity, and exploring immigration in each will provide a background from which to further investigate issues of gender and public policy. I would also like to provide brief summaries of the development women's rights in each country in order to contrast the rights and privileges held by the "native" women of the UK, Germany and Sweden respectively, with those of women who represent the cultural "other" while living on the same soil. I will then provide an in depth analysis of honor killings within a European cultural context.

After this analysis, I will include narratives from parties to whom these issues are relevant, haven been taken from each relevant geographic locale. Following this, I will include an overview and legal analysis of how laws are developed in each country to accommodate the growing numbers of honor killings and acts of violence against women within an Islamic minority. In what ways are these surrogate governments protecting them, and how are the policymakers dealing with respect for cultural variation versus upholding precedents for both individual rights and gender equality? How do these governments provide outreach to women at risk, and is outreach a priority?

My interest in pursuing this topic comes from multiple sources, but the primary motivation for its research comes from the lack of scholarly work on the subject. This is an incredibly timely and important issue, and the dearth of literature on it is surprising and crucial to supplement. My academic focus in cultural studies gives me the tools to analyze ethnographies and to incorporate sociological theory within my research, and part of my independent work has focused specifically on issues within Islamic extremist groups. My history in constitutional law gives me the ability to synthesize cases and to interpret policies, and my internship experience working directly with European policy and policymakers gives me confidence in my ability to receive a deep understanding for what I will be researching.