

Case Study: Khalil

Information from Khalil's social media and his phone messages and Khalil's own words, compiled by his close friend, acting as an advocate.

Khalil was born 23rd July 1997. His mother, Sadeeqa died on 12th August 1997. She was 21 years old. All Khalil knows, via his dad, is that she died as a result of complications arising from childbirth. Khalil remains the only child.

Khalil's father, Amir, is a journalist, film critic and amateur musician and has maintained his pursuits, with the support of his parents, sisters and in-laws. Professionally, Amir has achieved much, earning well and travelling. He has not remarried. The family and relatives all live in Manchester. Amir regularly told Khalil about the racism he faced and how success required Asian people to work three times as hard. He told his son about the job interview he attended and was greeted with "Oh!" when he walked into the room. The interview went badly, Amir said, because they were racist. Khalil regularly heard stories about his father's experiences that made him anxious, such as when Amir had a spate of receiving hand-delivered letters with a razor blade inside attached to a note saying "*move out P*** bastard or slice your own face and get used to how it's going to feel*".

In remembering Sadeeqa, Amir regularly told his son that his mother was watching and that he had to do well and make her proud. Growing up, Khalil did well at school achieving mostly 'A's and the occasional 'B' (which he was deeply upset about on the few times it happened). His academic goal was to study law; however, his passion was music and this absorbed much of his enthusiasm. He achieved straight 'A's in his GCSEs and started 6th form with promise. His music interests were growing and he was becoming a popular grime artist locally. He made links with a music producer in London and began travelling to the Capital to record songs and support up-and-coming artists. At one show a rumble of chants began to emerge and it turned out to be some people in the audience shouting "P***i" repeatedly in time with the music. After his set, he accepted a spliff for the first time and was pretty knocked out. The day after he received a call from a man who said that they had exchanged numbers. Khalil recalled how the previous night he had met a gay friend of his producer. During conversation he had come out to this stranger that he had never been interested in girls but could not see himself ever dating guys as he would like to because it was just not an option.

Khalil continued to make music and his online following began to grow, however he felt very anxious about ever performing on stage again. His producer tried to coerce him to perform live but this did not work. Instead, Khalil became more anxious and distracted and begun smoking heavily, preferring high grade skunk.

At home things were becoming increasingly tense and the previously placid teenage Khalil began to erupt with outbursts of anger and using language that was not acceptable in the home. Khalil began to act more and more on edge and his father recognised the smell of skunk and asked about that, and the influences of his music. This line of conversation had a

pattern: questions or challenge from dad- silence and withdrawal – raised tones from dad – outbursts from Khalil – threats to kick him out from dad.

Khalil's life outside the home had become fraught. Someone from Manchester, where he lived, had heard that he was gay. This man (known as X-man) had seen Khalil at the gym and told him that he knew about his double life and that unless Khalil transported weed for him he was going to tell his family that he was gay and that they would kill him. X-man took Khalil to his car and reached under the passenger seat and fumbled around, unzipped something and his hand emerged with a gun. The man told Khalil that if he messed up carrying the weed he would kill him, if his family hadn't already done it when he they heard he was gay. Khalil vomited down his clothes and the car and was kicked out immediately. He met X-man another day as planned and was given a tightly packaged block and an old style mobile phone. He was told to travel to Bradford and call the only number stored in the phone and await instructions.

Khalil made four of those trips and was unable to concentrate at school and stopped attending classes. He was frightened to leave the house and was in constant disagreement with his father. He was on edge and every time someone from his family called or sent a message because he felt anxious and sick in fear that they were about to confront him on his sexuality.

During one row, Amir, his father said that Khalil should be ashamed: *"It was a life for a life, your mother lost hers and you have life but have stopped living"*.

Khalil began only leaving the house almost exclusively to meet X-Man and make the drop to Bradford. On a trip to the train station a police vehicle screeched to a halt beside him on a targeted mission and arrested him and took him to the station. This was two days after his 18th birthday. In the station he was held in a cell awaiting the duty solicitor. Khalil asked for an Imam. He overheard the officers muttering that *'these lot'* want it both ways; the worse kind normally, and then they want to be all religious when it suits.

Khalil had been finding it hard to get off to sleep at night because of his anxiety and had not slept for more than an hour each night during the previous fortnight, had been smoking cannabis heavily had not eaten more than a few chocolate bars in this period. He had lost a lot of weight. In the cell he took off his sweatshirt and tied a noose around his neck and was seen by an officer wandering around in what seemed to be him looking for a ligature point. His trousers were soiled with faeces. He looked disorientated and was unable to hold a conversation with a logical flow. A duty physician examined him and suggested a Mental Health Act Assessment and he was transferred to an assessment suite at the hospital. During the MHAA interview Khalil seemed agitated and said things like a Jinn had entered his mind and told him to carry the packages. This led to them asking him if he drank heavily. The two s12 doctors and AMHP could not follow his conversation and were concerned about his mental state. As his father was away and unable to be at home to support crisis team interventions, an application was made for a s2 under the MHA, given his suicidal desires reported by the officer and expressed by Khalil in the interview.