



HUDDERSFIELD

GROOMING GANG TRANSCRIPT

2018



Amere Singh Dhaliwal



Irfan Ahmed



Zahid Hassan



Mohammed Kammer



Mohammed Aslam



Abdul Rehman



Raj Singh Barsran



Nahman Mohammed



The sentencing remarks of Amere Singh Dhaliwal, Irfan Ahmed, Zahid Hassan, Mohammed Kammer, Mohammed Rizwan Aslam, Abdul Rehman, Raj Singh Barsran, and Nahman Mohammed

Active from 2004-2011

PUBLISHED OCT 26

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About this case

These remarks concern eight defendants, sentenced following investigations made by West Yorkshire Police during Operation Tendersea, which began in late 2013. The offences listed here, historic child sex abuse, are one set of a larger overall case that occurred in Huddersfield between 2004 and 2011.

The offences concern a number of victims, teenage girls, though the youngest was 11 at the time of her abuse. HHJ Geoffrey Marson KC, presiding over the case, described it as “top of the scale” in terms of sexual abuse brought before the courts.

Irfan Ahmed (8 years) was sentenced for sexual assault and multiple offences of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Nahman Mohammed (15 years) was sentenced for trafficking for sexual exploitation and multiple offences of rape. Abdul Rehman (16 years) was sentenced for supplying drugs, rape, actual bodily harm, and trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Mohammed Rizwan Aslam (15 years) and Mohammed Kammer (16 years) were sentenced for multiple offences of rape.

Raj Singh Barsran (17 years) was sentenced for multiple offences of sexual assault and rape. Zahid Hassan (18 years) was sentenced for multiple offences of rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, trafficking for sexual exploitation, multiple offences of abducting a child, multiple offences of supplying ecstasy, and racially aggravated assault.

Amere Singh Dhaliwal (life imprisonment with a minimum term of 18 years) was sentenced for multiple offences of rape, assault by penetration, multiple offences of sexual assault, multiple offences of inciting sexual activity with a child, multiple offences of trafficking for sexual exploitation, multiple offences of possessing indecent images, inciting child prostitution, multiple offences of supplying ecstasy, and racially aggravated assault.

The judge noted that all the victims were vulnerable in some way, including gross parental neglect, and two had learning difficulties. They were subject to “persistent and prolonged” abuse, often after being “plied with alcohol and drugs.”

IN LEEDS CROWN COURT

Case No: T20177269

Courtroom No. 12

The Courthouse
1 Oxford Row
Leeds
LS1 3BG

Thursday, 7th June 2018

Before:
HIS HONOUR JUDGE MARSON QC

R E G I N A

-v-

RAJ BARSRAN & ORS

UNKNOWN COUNSEL appeared on behalf of the PROSECUTION
MR DUCK, MR BARTON, MS COLLEY & MR BRADSHAW appeared on behalf of the
DEFENDANTS

SENTENCE

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SENTENCE

JUDGE MARSON: Turning then to my sentencing remarks in this particular case, over the course

of this trial, a period of about 10 weeks, the jury and I watched DVDs made by 13 young women, victims who were abused by a grooming gang in Huddersfield over a period of years. This is the first trial and in all the cases involved 28 defendants.

When the abuse began there were children as young as 11 or 12, all vulnerable because of family and other circumstances. Two of these victims had a mild learning disability, and another had a mother addicted to alcohol and drugs who was completely unable to care for her young daughter. At the age of about 11 this girl was seen in a public house and associating with Asian men, and her vulnerability must have been obvious for all to see. Some of these girls, before the abuse, were doing well at school. But as the grooming began and developed in the insidious and persistent way in which it did, their behaviour began to deteriorate and families were torn apart. Children who were socially isolated and not well supported by family and friends were selected and deliberately targeted. In their youth and naivety they thought they were being made to feel special by flattery, going to parties, having rides in cars, being plied with alcohol and drugs, and being given presents. For some it was a more exciting way of life, they saw it as being more adult, doing things which other girls of their age were not doing.

They thought that these men were showing them genuine affection, but what in fact was happening was that a relationship of trust was created, albeit that it was entirely false and had been deliberately created to enable predatory men such as you to perpetrate gross sexual abuse for your own perverted gratification.

One of the girls said, 'I suppose when you're young and you get bullied at school and stuff like that you do sort of like the attention and things getting bought for you and stuff. But then once you are in with them you couldn't get out of it. They got your trust and then stuff would start happening to you, and it is just one of those things that you couldn't get out of it. It just happened. My mum and dad's houses got trashed, their cars got trashed. I was constantly getting raped, beaten up.'

A

Another girl spoke of truanting from school so that they could go and meet these men, ‘thinking we were like big, and look at me kind of thing. Then they would start giving us alcohol and offering us cannabis to smoke, and we thought yes we like this, we are going to do this, we are grown up. But we weren’t really, we were young but when you are young you do think it is cool to be doing them things, going against what your mum says and stuff like that. Just having a little drink, having a bit of a laugh, and then as the weeks went on it started getting a bit different like the drinks would taste a bit different than what they did, and you can’t really remember things. Girls were also told how gorgeous they were and how special.’

B

C

Then things changed for these girls and the abuse began. The details were chilling. It was persistent and prolonged. Having been plied with alcohol and drugs, girls were raped orally and vaginally. They were trafficked to isolated areas or to houses for the purpose of sexual abuse by those who took them or by others. When taken to isolated places, such as the Moors or a reservoir, if they did not comply there were, on occasions, beaten. They were told they would be left to make their own way back, children on their own, children late at night in isolated areas. They were taken to so-called parties at houses where there would be older Asian men. Again they were plied with alcohol and drugs. On occasion drinks were spiked, and many times these girls were rendered senseless.

They would be taken to a room where one by one men would go and abuse these girls sexually. Sometimes no contraception was used. Sometimes plastic bags were used as condoms. It was disgusting and degrading. Girls would wake up naked or partially clothed not knowing what had happened to them. Truth or dare games were played, and girls were ordered to perform sexual acts with others. Sexual acts done would often take place in the presence of other Asian men and other young girls. If they did not comply they were either threatened or beaten. They were raped and sexually abused in cars, car parks, houses, a snooker centre, a takeaway, in a park and other places.

In the case of the oral rapes there was ejaculation usually into the girls’ mouth, and in the case of some of the vaginal rapes there was ejaculation and a lack of contraception. It is clear that once the will of these girls had been overborne they continued to be plied with alcohol and drugs, and they were controlled by violence and/or the threat of violence either to them personally or to their families.

A

During the course of the interviews with the police the girls were asked why they had not complained, or why they kept going back. The girls spoke of being scared by threats and violence to them and their families. One girl said, 'there was so many of them they all knew each other, and it was just like an escalation. And they knew they could pick me up whenever they wanted because my mum was vulnerable.' Another girl, when asked why she went back, said, 'they just threatened me. If you don't come I 'm coming to pick you up now, and if you don't come then we're going to get your mum.'

B

Another girl said, 'it was just like a continual lifestyle, I didn't know how to get out of it. You feel manipulated and scare in a way that if you don't meet these guys then something is going to happen. And it just went on continuously for like years really, just the same thing day in day out. You would see people with knives or fighting so you do feel scared and you do feel intimidated. But on the other side you feel like you want to be a rebel because you are that age, but really it's a downright dangerous situation you are in, and you are playing with fire. You know what I mean? Getting driven to [inaudible] at 13 years old at 2:00am, and if you don't do this you're not gonna come back. I always bug myself why did I go back, and I still cannot answer that question. Why did I put myself in that? For years and years I've blamed myself that it was my fault I went back. They are quite manipulative and when you're in that situation you are so pressured you feel so stupid and dirty and horrible.'

C

So corrupted were some of these girls by this abuse that they regarded the behaviour as normal. These girls regularly went missing from home causing great distress to their families. They became secretive and aggressive, and they came home often drunk and/or under the influence of drugs. Some were almost senseless when they arrived home. Many came home injured having been assaulted. Person 1 and Person 3 were forced to commit crime and served substantial custodial sentences for it. Girls repeatedly went back knowing they would be abused because they were too frightened for themselves and their families not doing it. These girls changed beyond recognition.

A

One girl went back to school with semen on her school jumper having performed oral sex on Mohammed Kammer. One girl became known as Person 2.1. Some parents had to call the police because their children became so aggressive when parents tried to prevent them from leaving the house. On at least one occasion parents were so worried they called the police, and as a consequence their child was arrested and taken away to calm down. Nothing parents did succeeded in keeping these girls at home.

B

One parent received a phone call asking for their daughter and was threatened, 'I'm coming for you.' That same mother received a phone call from one of the other girls asking her to pick her daughter up. She was found on Crosland Moor propped up against a wall, unable to stand, and disorientated. Families became very fearful because these men knew where they lived, and parents spoke of being followed home, and constant phone calls to the house and to mobiles. At least one girl attempted suicide.

C

One of the girls was seen being thrown out of a moving car outside her home. She had bruises all over her face and was under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The brother of one of these girls saw a car with Asian men, and they asked him where all the pussy was, saying we are looking for white girls or bitches. The men then named his sister as one of the girls. House windows were smashed. Threats were made to cause physical harm to members of the girls' family. Threats were made to bomb the house. Damage was done to cars, and wheel nuts were loosened causing serious danger.

When one girl was taken into care she was abducted from the home and supplied with drugs and made to perform oral sex. When she moved to foster care in a different city, carers noted that she did not want to give up her mobile phone or the SIM card. And she shouted, 'they will kill me.' And she threatened to swallow the SIM card. Very quickly the abusers had managed to locate her again. One night the house phone rang and the man asked for the girl, and said, 'tell her I want to fuck her.' After three days the girl was moved to another foster carer in another City and again she was quickly located. There were repeated calls from Asian men saying, 'can you tell her we want to fuck her.' The carer told them it was illegal and the girl was only 12. And their response was to say, 'that's nothing to do with you, we want her back, just let her go or else.'

A

In later calls there were more threats. The girl was absolutely terrified and said that if the carer gave the SIM card to the police they will find me and kill me.

B

Amongst the aggravating factors are that these girls were young when the abuse started. They were targeted because of their extreme vulnerability. They were threatened and intimidated, and plied with drink and drugs often to insensibility and often in order to facilitate sexual abuse. These were planned offences by a large group of Asian men. There was ejaculation during oral sex, and often ejaculation and no contraception during vagina sex. Violence was used as a means of controlling these girls, and the abuse persisted over a significant period of time.

C

One girl became pregnant and had a termination, although it is right to say that it cannot be said with certainty which man was responsible for that.

I want to make it clear that I have taken care to avoid any double counting when considered category in the guidelines these offences fall into. It is likely that many if not all of these girls will never recover from the abuse they suffered. I seen them in their DVDs and in the witness box, and it is clear that all have been, and remain, profoundly affected by the abuse which ended some years ago. Their families have been, and remain, profoundly affected. I have read the victim personal statements, they make harrowing reading. The way you treated these girls defies understanding. This abuse was vile and wicked. As cases of sexual abuse with which the courts have to deal, this case comes at the top of the scale. None of you has expressed any remorse for what you did. On the other hand, these girls displayed great courage by eventually making their complaints to the police and going through this agonising court process. Their ordeal in this respect has only added to the misery that you caused them during this period of sexual abuse. I do not add to your sentences because there has been a trial and these girls have had to give evidence, but it means that I cannot give you the substantial credit which a guilty plea would have entitled you to. The victim personal statements set out far more eloquently the suffering to which they have been subjected, and the long term effects which this abuse has had and will continue to have.

Having outlined the history of this offending, you should all understand that you will be sentenced for what you did as individuals. But set against what must have been your state of knowledge as to the background and grooming of these girls and their abuse by a large number of Asian men.

A

The sentences I pass on you are severe and are intended to be so. They are intended to deter others from behaving in this way. People must understand that those who behave in the way you behaved must expect no sympathy from the courts. The courts have to do what they can to protect young girls from abuse.

B

As I indicated earlier in proceedings, I propose to aggregate the sentences to reflect the totality of your offending and to pass concurrent sentences. Where for example in respect of rape, I pass a sentence outside the range for Category 2A, that is only because I have taken into account the commission of another or other offences. In all your cases I make it clear that I have borne in mind everything which has been said on your behalf, and that I have had regard to the principle of totality. I have had full regard to the Sentencing Guidelines in relation to the offences to which they apply.

C

Turning firstly to the question of sexual harm prevention orders. I am satisfied that in each of your cases it is necessary to make such an order to prevent each of you from causing any future potential victim sexual harm by further offences being committed by you. The terms of the order are as follows, that each of you will be prohibited from having any contact, either directly or indirectly, with Person 1, Person 2, Person 3, Person 4, Person 5, Person 6, Person 7, Person 8, Person 9, Person 10, Person 11, Person 12, Person 13, Person 14 and Person 15. You will be prohibited from having any unsupervised contact either directly or indirectly with any female child under the age of 18, save for (a) that which is inadvertent and not reasonably avoidable in the course of normal daily life. (b) with the express approval of the parents, guardian of the female child who has full knowledge of your identity, convictions and the terms of this order, and with the express written permission of the social services department for the area in which the female child resides, save for visits by your own children if taking place within a custodial institution. Or (c) by order of a judge or Magistrate of the family court. Thirdly, you are prohibited from living or sleeping in the same dwellinghouse or any semi-permanent structure as a female child under the age of 18, save for (a) with the express written permission of the social services department for the area in which the female child resides. Or (b) by the order of a judge or Magistrate of the family court.

Fourthly, from inviting or having any female child under the age of 18 in your motorcar or any other vehicle in your control unless (a) the female child is accompanied by their parent or guardian, or appropriate adult other than your own children. (b) express written permission has been provided by the social services department for the area in which the female child resides. Or (c) by the order of a judge or Magistrate of the family court.

A

And finally you are all prohibited from seeking or undertaking any employment, including voluntary work, whether for payment or otherwise, which is likely at some time to allow you supervised access to a female child under the age of 18 years.

If any of you breach that order you commit an offence punishable by imprisonment. And as with your notification requirements the orders will run indefinitely. And each of you is barred from working with children.

B

Turning to each of you now individually. You can all remain seated. Amere Singh Dhaliwal you are now 35 years old and were convicted by the jury of 54 counts involving the abuse of 11 girls. They break down as follows, two vaginal rapes. Three specimen vaginal rapes.

C

Five oral rapes. Eight specimen oral rapes, including one under 13. Four multiple occasion oral rapes involving at least 38 occasions, including at least two under 13. One assault by penetration. Three sexual assaults. Five inciting sexual activity, including intercourse.

Thirteen trafficking for sexual exploitation. Three indecent images. One inciting child prostitution. Three supplying ecstasy, and one racially aggravated assault.

It is clear to me, from all the evidence I have heard, that you were one of the leaders of this grooming gang. Your nickname Pretos pervades every DVD interview. Not only did you commit countless sexual offences against young girls, but you also introduced other men to this gang in order that they could abuse these girls. On many occasions you trafficked girls so that they would be sexually abused by others, on occasions in your presence, and on occasions with you video recording on your phone what was taking place for distribution to others. You incited sexual activity including intercourse, and incited child prostitution. You supplied drugs and alcohol in order to groom, and then render young girls vulnerable to sexual abuse by you and others. You threatened them. You used violence, and you repeatedly raped children.

On one occasion in a truth or dare game in the presence of others inserted a bottle into a girl's vagina. It was a very significant campaign of rape and other sexual abuse. Children's lives have been ruined and families profoundly affected by seeing their children over months and years out of control having been groomed by you and other members of your gang. As the jury found you were involved in active abuse over a period of years. Your treatment of these girls was inhuman. You treated them as commodities to be passed around for your own sexual gratification and the gratification of others.

A The extent and gravity of your offending far exceeds anything which I have previously encountered. As the presentence report states, ‘in the commission of the offences Mr Dhaliwal displayed manipulative, predatory and risk taking behaviour, and exerting power and control over young girls. He befriended young females and established an emotional connection for the object of sexual abuse. The victims were plied with drugs and alcohol, passed around his friends and raped by a number of men. They would also be forced to engage in sexual activity out of fear of reprisals.

B
C I have listened with care to everything which Mr Duck QC said on your behalf. But there is only one matter of mitigation which is the fact that you have no similar previous convictions, and have not previously served a custodial sentence. Your previous character in these circumstances however carries little weight. I am mindful of the affect that this sentence will have upon others close to you especially your wife and children. I have read the letter from your wife. As with all defendants I have borne in mind the length of time since these offences were committed, that in itself is little mitigation because these are just the sort of offences against children who have been groomed which very often are not revealed for years.

What each defendant has done in the meantime is of course relevant. In your case I have borne in mind that save for the jury’s conviction in relation to the 2014 assault in this case you have turned your life around. You are married with children, and five years ago you converted to the Sikh religion which you have followed since.

Turning now to the question of dangerousness. In making that assessment I have considered the circumstances of this offending and everything I know about you. I note from the presentence report that you continued to maintain your innocence. And the report states, ‘in the commission of these offences he displayed controlling behaviour and the victims describe him as having a violent temper. His lack of acceptance for his offending and his views on why he has been brought before the court demonstrates a lack of awareness of consequences, and an inability to recognise and solve problems. Until Mr Dhaliwal accepts responsibility for his offending and engages in interventions to address his offending behaviour then he will pose a high risk of harm to female children.’ With those sentiments I entirely agree. I acknowledge that the report states that, in my emphasis, statistically you are assessed as a low risk of future general offending, and a medium risk of future serious offending.

A

The assessment of the author of the report however is that you pose a high risk of harm to young females, namely a risk of sexual exploitation, rape and sexual assaults. Of course I accept that these offences were committed a number of years ago and have not been repeated since you married and had children. I have reminded myself of the references regarding your character which were put before the jury. It is submitted that I should not conclude that you are dangerous. Having listened to the harrowing evidence in this case over many weeks, the prolonged period over which this offending took place, the gravity of it, and the extent of it drives me to the sure conclusion that in your case there is a significant risk of serious harm from the commission by you of further specified offences.

B

C

It follows therefore that I must pass upon you either an extended sentence of imprisonment or a life sentence. At the moment it is clear that there is little offending behaviour work which can be done in order to diminish the risk you pose. There is no reliable estimate of the length of time for which you will remain a danger. An extended sentence of imprisonment is not appropriate. Furthermore I consider that the totality of your offending is such as to justify the imposition of a sentence of imprisonment for life.

The individual sentences, which will all run concurrently, are as follows, counts one, two, five, six, seven, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 and 68, life imprisonment. Counts 20, 23, 26, 41, 42, 49, 60, 61, 72, 73, 74, 76 and 77, 10 years' imprisonment. Counts three, eight, 10, 19, 20, eight years' imprisonment. Counts 57 and 69, seven years' imprisonment. Counts 21, 34, and 62, six years' imprisonment. Counts four, 40, 50 and 59, four years' imprisonment. Counts 27, 29, 30 and 48, three years' imprisonment.

As I have passed a sentence of life imprisonment I must now fix the minimum term which you must serve before you are eligible for release in accordance with Section 82(a) of the Powers of Criminal Court Sentencing Act 2000. Had I passed a determinate sentence of imprisonment upon you, reflecting the totality of your offending, the total sentence would have been 36 years' imprisonment. I therefore set the minimum term at 18 years less the time you have spent in custody, namely 53 days. Therefore the minimum term is 17 years and 312 days. I make it clear that this is an indeterminate sentence. The minimum term I have set is the minimum term you will spend in custody, it will only be after you have served that minimum term that you will be eligible to apply to the Parole Board for release. The Parole Board will not release you until it is satisfied that you no longer pose a risk to the public.

A Even when you are released you will remain on licence for the remainder of your life and subject to recall should circumstances require it.

And you may go down. Thank you.

B Irfan Ahmed, you are now 33 years old. And between 2006 and 2011 you have previous convictions for criminal damage, theft, handling, possessing cannabis and possession of cannabis with intent to supply. You have no previous convictions for sexual offences, and you have not previously served a custodial sentence. You were convicted of count 52, sexual assault on Person 3, and counts 82 and 83, trafficking Person 10 for sexual exploitation.

C It is clear that you have some knowledge of the background of this gang. You must have had some awareness of the grooming process which had taken place. In your evidence you said you knew Person 1, and over a period of about 18 months you supplied her with cannabis. It is inconceivable that you did not at least some of the grooming and abuse which was taking place.

So far as Person 3 is concerned it is right to say, as your advocate urged in mitigation, that at once stage you thought you were not like the others, and you stopped if you were told to do so, and intervened on occasion. She made clear in her DVD however, 'he was obsessed with me. It was like he cared for me in a sort of way, so he never forced himself on me like that. But after a while he changed as well, he just started getting nasty. If I got in the car and I was like I want to go home, and he's like why the fuck do you want to go home at this time? He just started getting a bit nasty so I stopped chilling with him.'

You were about seven years older than she was. And whilst she was under the influence of alcohol and cannabis you took advantage of her, touching her breasts and vagina under her clothing at a time when she was 15 years old. It is accepted on your behalf that this is a Category 2A offence.

Your other victim, Person 10, was a young girl with a mild learning disability. She said that a friend took her to a friend's house and they were picked up by two men, one of whom was you. 'They used to take us to houses, buy us drinks and then make us like do things in exchange for cigarettes. It started when I was 14.'

A So far as count 82 is concerned, you were involved in driving her to a house with a view to her sexual exploitation. You contemplated that either you or someone else would sexually abuse her. Nothing sexual in fact happened on this occasion because of a dispute with another girl, although another man Faj locked her in for a while and she was really scared. Count 83 involves you and another man taking Person 10 and Person 16 to a car park, and at a time when Person 10 was affected by alcohol another car pulled up. This was clearly pre-arranged. You told Person 10 to get into the other car with Person 16. At first they did not want to, and you said just get in for a few minutes and then we will come and get you. The girls did as they were told and they were then plied with more alcohol by Wajid and the other man in the car. Once she was senseless with alcohol Person 10 was vaginally raped, she thought without contraception. It is submitted on your behalf that I should not regard this as a Category 1A offence, I do not agree. It is clearly an offence which falls into that category. Your victim was under 18 and I am satisfied that you knew something of the grooming process which rendered this particularly vulnerable child to sexual abuse. Before you told her to get into the car with the other man you knew she was under the influence of alcohol. She had a mild learning disability. This was clearly a planned offence. It was offending in the presence of others. Those aggravating factors alone justify putting this count into Culpability A, disregarding, as I do, the question of abuse of trust.

In your favour I have borne in mind everything which Mr Barton has urged on your behalf, some of which I have already referred to. It is to your credit that the letter you wrote to me appears to accept some responsibility for what you did. I have borne in mind the reference from a previous employer, and also from your partner. I am mindful of the affect that the sentence I impose on you will have on her and your two young children and the two children you have from your failed marriage. I bear in mind your depression and anxiety whilst in custody, and the fact that this is your first custodial sentence. I have also borne in mind the length of time since these offences were committed.

Nonetheless, as I have previously indicated, significant custodial sentences must be passed. As with all defendants it will be the least sentence commensurate with the gravity of the offending and taking into account the matters on mitigation. As with all defendants sentenced to determinate sentences of imprisonment, you will be liable to serve up to half of the sentence before you are released. Once you are released you will be on licence until the end of the custodial term, and you will be liable to be recalled to custody if you re-offend or your conduct warrants it.

The sentence on count 52 is three years' imprisonment. On count 82, four years' imprisonment. And on count 83, eight years' imprisonment. All those sentences will run concurrently with each other making eight years' imprisonment in all. And you may go down.

Zahid Hassan, you are now 29 years old and have convictions for robbery, theft, dangerous driving aggravated vehicle taking, affray and criminal damage. You have previously served custodial sentences but you have no previous convictions for sexual offences. You were convicted by the jury of 14 offences involving three girls, and they breakdown as follows, one vaginal rape, one attempted vaginal rape. Three oral rapes, one of which was a girl under 13. Two specimen oral rapes, one of which was on a girl under 13. One sexual assault. One trafficking for sexual exploitation. Two abductions of a child. One supply of ecstasy. One multiple occasion supply of ecstasy on at least five occasions. And one racially aggravated assault. In one of the vaginal rapes no contraception was used and you ejaculated onto the girl's buttocks.

A

Your advocate properly made no submissions on your behalf in relation to the categorisation of these offences by the prosecution, with those categorisations I entirely agree.

B

You were convicted of raping three girls, one of whom was 11 or 12 years old. Clearly this was a campaign of rape and other sexual offending. You committed a racially aggravated assault upon Person 1 in 2014. Person 2, whom you orally raped, was known as Person 2.1. And Person 17 was amongst the youngest and most vulnerable of these girls. You orally raped her on a number of occasions at the takeaway, she was under 13. You orally raped her having taken her to the Moors, and when she had been taken into care at [redacted], you abducted her and made her perform oral sex on you. You repeatedly supplied her with ecstasy, and while she was in foster care attempted to rape her vaginally.

C

I have had to consider the question of dangerousness in your case. And although this is finely balanced, I have, after some hesitation, come to the conclusion that you do not fall into that categorisation. I will therefore pass a determinate sentence of imprisonment on you. Whilst it is difficult to be precise as to your age, it seems that you are likely to have been between 15 and 17 at the time of the offences, possibly 18 in relation to Person 2. This was no isolated incident but a campaign over a significant period. I also make what I regard as the appropriate discount to allow for your age at the time. And as with all defendants, I have regard to the principle of totality. I have borne in mind everything which has been urged on your behalf, including the fact that you have no convictions for sexual offences, and the length of time since these offences were committed.

Dealing with the individual counts the sentences are as follows, counts 31, 44, 46, 86, 87, 90 and 94, 18 years' imprisonment. On counts 88 and 93, six years' imprisonment. Count 91, four years' imprisonment. Counts 11, 89 and 91, three years' imprisonment. Count 32, 27 months' imprisonment. All those sentences will run concurrently with each other, making a total of 18 years' imprisonment in all. Had you been older at the time you committed these offences the sentence would have been in the region of 25 years.

You may go down. Thank you.

Mohammed Kammer, you are now 33 years old and you have previous convictions for driving over the prescribed limit. Driving whilst disqualified. Aggravated vehicle taking.

Threatening behaviour. Theft. Robbery. Making off without payment. Battery and harassment. You have previously been to custody but you have no previous convictions for offences of a sexual nature. You were convicted by the jury of count 9, the vaginal rape of Person 1 during the truth or dare game. And count 75, the oral rape of Person 6 in the park. Dealing with count nine, you were present in a house during this truth or dare game. Other Asian men were there as well as another young girl, Person 18. Person 1 was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, and Dhaliwal dared you to rape her. You just laughed it off at first, but when he dared you again you raped her vaginally. She was 15 or possibly 16. You wore a condom and ejaculated on her. At the same time as you raped her Person 18 was performing oral sex on another Asian man, and others were watching what was going on. It was degrading and wicked.

A Count 75 is the oral rape of Person 6, another girl with a mild learning disability and an IQ of 67. Her mother's evidence was that she has the mental age of a child between seven and nine. One day Person 6 was wearing her school uniform and went with Person 1 to the park. It was perfectly obvious that she was a vulnerable child. There she met you and another man. Clearly this was a pre-arranged and planned meeting, unknown to Person 6. Once at the park you gave Person 6 some alcohol, Jack Daniels, and you asked her to go for a walk. You took her into some bushes and kissed her, and you then asked her to sleep with you and she said no. Then you grabbed her, put your hand on her head and told her she was going to suck your penis. When she said no you forced her, and she was scared and crying. You told her not to tell anyone.

B

C She said, 'I was scared to say no to him. He was like do it, and I was just like no. And then I can remember him grabbing hold of my hair and he pushed me down. I was proper shock up. It's disgusting.' You ejaculated. She told the jury how people found out at school, and she was further humiliated by being called a Paki sucker. Again I have heard no submissions to contradict the prosecution's submissions that these offences are at the very least in Category 2A, with a starting point of 10 years, and a range of nine to 13 for a single offence. I have to deal with you for two offences on two separate girls. You too must have had at least some knowledge of the way these girls had been groomed, and the way they were being treated by others. And you were prepared to abuse them for your own sexual gratification. In your favour I have borne in mind everything which was said on your behalf. You are not alleged to have trafficked any girl for use by another man. You have no previous convictions for sexual offences, and have tried to lead a constructive life. Your family have been affected, and your relationship has ended as a result of your convictions. I also bear in mind the length of time since these offences were committed. As with others, I aggregate the sentences to reflect the totality of your offending having regard also to the principle of totality. The sentence in respect of count nine and count 75 is one of 16 years' imprisonment concurrently on each.

And you may go down. Thank you.

Mohammed Rizwan Aslam, you are now 30 years old, and you have an old conviction for assault occasioning actual bodily harm, and a conviction in 2010 for being concerned in the supply of heroin for which you received a suspended sentence. You have not been to custody and you have no previous convictions for sexual offences. You were convicted by the jury of count 43 and count 45, the oral and vaginal rape of Person 2 at the takeaway.

The jury heard evidence that until she was 12 years old Person 2 was a nice little girl who went to school regularly. Everything was fine and she was a normal outgoing girl. However when the family moved to Huddersfield, when Person 2 was 12 years old, all that changed. She truanted from school. Went missing on a regular basis. Returned home in a dirty and dishevelled state. And on one occasion her mother found her at hospital having been plied with drink and ecstasy, someone had found her in a ditch. Person 2 was sexually abused, as the jury found, by Dhaliwal. You then brought her to you, he then brought her to you at the takeaway. It is obvious therefore that you must have had some knowledge of the fact that she had been groomed, and you must have known that she was a vulnerable child.

A On that first occasion, which is reflected in count 43, you orally raped her and there was ejaculation. This was a pre-arranged incident. As Person 2 said in her DVD, she was in a car with Dhaliwal and others including you, and she was driven to Normanton having been plied with alcohol. She was told to go inside with Mohammed Rizwan Aslam, and once inside you took her upstairs to the toilet, told her she was beautiful and you asked her to perform oral sex and she said no. You then threatened her that if she did not do it she would be left there saying, 'we brought drink for you and your going to do this.' Once she was in the car she was orally raped by one of the other men. Rumours circulated around her school, and she learned that she was being given the name Person 2.1 for blow jobs, thereby suffering further humiliation. As a result she went to school even less.

B There was another clearly planned visit to the takeaway as reflected in count 45 when you raped Person 2 vaginally. You took her up to the toilet in the takeaway, and as she said in her DVD 'just basically getting taken up into the toilet and he'd be like I want to fuck you.' There was ejaculation, but I approach it on the basis that you used contraception. Afterwards Person 2 said that she felt dirty and horrible. Person 2 said she thought she was about 14 at the time.

C I have borne in mind everything which has been said on your behalf, in particular at the time you were aged between 18 and 20. It is submitted that no one else was present at the time of the actual rape. There was no significant planning, and drink was not used to facilitate the offence. You have a history of depression.

The sentence on counts 43 and 45 is 15 years' imprisonment on each to run concurrently. And you may go down. Thank you.

Abdul Rehman, you are now 31 years old and you have previous convictions for obstructing the police. Threatening behaviour. Driving whilst disqualified. And in 2013 you were sent to prison for being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs. You were convicted by the jury of four offences in relation to three girls. Count 79 is a specimen charge of supplying cannabis to Person 8. I have borne in mind that at the relevant time it was a Class C drug. In her DVD Person 8 said, 'I used to get drugs and stuff off them, like beasty I think he was called. I would go to a house party and they'd be there because the girls associated with them. But I think it was because they, you know, they'd supplied drugs and alcohol for people like at parties. Or I would ring Beasty, I don't know his proper name, but he was always with them like in their cars.'

Sometimes she would pay for the drugs, and sometimes they were [inaudible]. You knew the defendant Dhaliwal and associated with him. I note what Ms Colley said in mitigation about Person 1 not mentioning you being present when she was abused. But it is obvious that you had some knowledge of the activities of Dhaliwal and others, and the grooming and abuse of vulnerable victims.

Count 84 is the vaginal rape of Person 13 at B's house. And count 85 is the assault occasioning actual bodily harm the following day. In her DVD she spoke of being at B's house with you and Dhaliwal. She had been drinking before she got to the house, but once there she was given cannabis, vodka and brandy.

A

When you raped her, even if aged 18, she was senseless through a combination of alcohol and drugs. She was incapable of giving any informed consent, and incapable of putting up any real resistance. You well knew that and exploited that vulnerability to abuse her. She tried to push you off but you just carried on. You used no contraception, and you ejaculated. Person 13 said that is of you, 'he thought I was a slag because I just, that's what they thought of you. They just called you hood rats.' She said you were horrible to her and called her names, and said that if it was not for her hair she would have nothing going for her. You would say that in the street, or in the car when you were with other men. After you finished raping her she ran from the house and had to make her own way home, a considerable distance.

B

The following day she was walking on Manchester Road when you passed in your car with two girls. In the presence of those girls you got out of the car, kicked her in the stomach and then kicked her twice in the vaginal area. You were swearing at her and accusing her of saying she was pregnant, even though she had not said anything at the time. It was a brutal and cowardly attack. You used your shod foot against a vulnerable victim and caused her injury. You clearly intended to cause more serious physical harm than actually resulted in. Others were present. This is a Category 1 offence.

C

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In her DVD she said that you had also threatened her family, and threatened to stab her. She said she did not dare go out, and had nightmares. 'I was scared he'd do something. He ruined years of my sleep.'

Count 96 involved the trafficking of Person 14 for sexual exploitation. In her DVD Person 14 named you as one of the men she had met in the early days. Of you she said, 'Beasty, I've tried to get away from Beasty. I don't know what actually led up to it, but I know that I smacked him and then because I was trying to get away from him he pinned me up against the wall until I was blue in the face.' She said she thought you were alright at first but then called you a horrible person. You took her out in your car for the purpose of sexually abusing her. She did not know where you had taken her, and in her DVD she said, 'I don't know whether it's cos I wouldn't fuck him or I wouldn't suck his dick, he left me somewhere and then Person 19 came and got me.' She felt degraded and violated.

I agree with the submission of your advocate that although this is a Category 1 case, so far as culpability is concerned it does not fit easily into the guidelines. There are aggravating features in that she was vulnerable, under the influence of alcohol, albeit not to secure her compliance, and when she refused to comply you abandoned her.

A I have borne in mind everything which Ms Colley has said on your behalf, in her written submissions and in oral submissions, and including the letter from your sister to whom you have been a support. I have also read the letter from you and the other references which were handed in this morning. Insofar as the rape is concerned it is submitted that she must have been 18 and was present voluntarily at first. In relation to the trafficking that she had been present voluntarily at the party when there was no offending. And that once you asked for oral sex and she refused you did not persist in your demands. I also bear in mind that you have no previous convictions for sexual matters, and I have reminded myself of the references put before the jury which spoke of a different side to you.

B
C After your arrest you removed yourself from Huddersfield and went to live in Sheffield. I also bear in mind the consequences of the sentences on others. As I indicated, during the course of submissions, each of these offences would attract a consecutive sentence. However, as I have indicated I propose to pass aggregate sentences to reflect the totality of the offending and to pass concurrent sentences. Whilst that may take the sentence from the red outside the range for Category 2A, as with some other defendants, that is because I have aggregated. I have had regard to the principle of totality.

On count 79 the sentence is 15 months' imprisonment. On count 84, 16 years' imprisonment. On count 85, two years' imprisonment. And on count 96, four years' imprisonment, making 16 years' imprisonment in all. And you may go down. Thank you.

Raj Singh Barsran, you are now 34 years old and you have convictions in 2007 for handling stolen goods. In 2011 possession with intent to supply cannabis. And in 2013 you received a substantial sentence of imprisonment for an offence of wounding with intent. You were convicted by the jury of three offences against three separate girls. Count 33, the sexual assault of Person 1. Count 54, the vaginal rape of Person 3. And count 58, the sexual assault of Person 4. Counts 33 and 58 are linked in that they were committed on the same occasion. Your offending is aggravated by the fact that you provided accommodation where so-called parties were held. Young girls were plied with alcohol and drugs, sometimes until they were so intoxicated that they had little or no idea what was happening to them. Then girls would be taken upstairs at your house and sexually abused. You were well aware of the grooming process and the vulnerability of these victims. It was not unusual for the sexual abuse to take place in front of others.

A Dealing with counts 33 and 58 together, Person 1 and Person 4 were at your house with you and other Asian men. Having been affected by alcohol, Person 1 was taken upstairs by Zahid Hasan, count 31, and raped vaginally. Person 4 was insensible with drink and/or drugs. She was completely incapable of giving any informed consent. She was incapable of resisting or defending herself. You knew that. Having been raped upstairs by Zahid Hassan Person 1 came downstairs and found you on top of Person 4. You had pushed her top and bra up and you were groping her. You were kissing her and touching her breasts. Person 1 tried to wake Person 4 up but you grabbed hold of her and put her up against the back door. When you had hold of her you then put your hands down her pants and groped her. You told her to shut up and get out of your house or else you would keep her there until you had finished with Person 4. It is clear to me that had Person 1 not intervened in your sexual assault upon Person 4 it would have continued. These are Category 2A offences.

B

C

Turning now to count 54, the vaginal rape of Person 3. During the course of the trial you admitted having sexual intercourse with her but claimed she consented and that you reasonably believed she was consenting. The clear evidence was that she was so drunk she had vomited. Other Asian men were present at your house including Dhaliwal. Person 3 said that you gave her a drink which had something in it, and after that she remembered nothing. Whilst she was insensible you raped her vaginally.

Seemingly before that, in the presence of other men, other sickening acts of abuse were video recorded by Dhaliwal in count 48. That was degrading and humiliating. She only became aware of what had happened when she heard about and saw the video which had been taken. Person 3 said that after you had given her the drink she remembered nothing until the following morning when she woke up in the bed. She was totally naked. You were in the bed with her and you were naked. In her DVD she said, 'I woke up and I didn't know where I was. When he put his arm around me I thought who is it? I was just speechless, I didn't know what to say, I just starting like panicking. My heart was bearing really fast because I didn't know what had gone on or what had happened.' She said she felt disgusting and dirty, and the worse thing was not knowing what had happened, and how many people had been in the room when it happened.

Because she was insensible it is unclear whether you used a condom and whether there was ejaculation. Person 3 said that she phoned people telling them what had happened and that

A was when she found out there was a video of at least part of it, and that, ‘they was all laughing. I don’t understand why they found it funny when I was absolutely knocked out. I wasn’t moving or anything. I was just on sofa like this with all sick down me, like they was pouring drinks on me. They was naked putting their bits in my face like that on the video. And then I was actually being sick on the video and they were all laughing at me still videoing me.’ It may be said that the aggravating factors here would justify elevating this offence of rape to Category 1. On any view it is still at the very top of the range of Category 2A.

B
C Mr Bradshaw tells me that you still deny the offences.
I have taken account of everything which Mr Bradshaw has said on your behalf including your lack of previous convictions for offences of a sexual nature, and the length of time since these offences were committed, although I have already indicated that that mere fact is of little mitigation. I have also borne in mind your medical problems in that suffered strokes in 2007 and 2009. The fact that you are relatively isolated, and it is said that it is unlikely that your family will visit you in prison.

As with others I have aggregated sentences to reflect the totality of your offending, and therefore all these sentences will run concurrently with each other. On count 33 the sentence is three years’ imprisonment. On count 54, 17 years’ imprisonment. And on count 58, four years’ imprisonment, making a total of 17 years’ imprisonment in all.
And you may go down. Thank you.

Nahman Mohammed, you are 30 years old and you only convictions are for driving over the prescribed limit in 2008, and harassment in 2011. You have not served a custodial sentence, and you have no previous convictions for offences of a sexual nature. You were convicted by the jury of three offences against two girls. Count 95 is the trafficking for sexual exploitation of Person 20. Count 97, the oral rape of Person 14. And count 98 is the vaginal rape of Person 14.

A

So far as count 95 is concerned, Person 14 was particularly young and vulnerable and at the time was in foster care as a result of the earlier sexual abuse of this grooming gang. She would come back to Huddersfield to see her mother, and it appears to have been on such an occasion that she met you driving in a car with a passenger, said to be the defendant Kid. This was pre-arranged. As she said in her DVD, 'I got noticed by Zahid and the rest of them, and I started getting text messages saying they knew who I was. They was asking to come and meet up with me so I did, and when I went to meet up with this guy it was Kid and somebody called Dracula.'

B

C

You told her to get into the car. She was plied with alcohol and cannabis and driven to an area where you parked. You remained in the driver's seat whilst Kid got into the back with Person 14 and she was given more alcohol. And while she was drunk, over a period of about two hours, he repeatedly sexually touched her on her vagina and elsewhere and asked her to give him oral sex, which she refused to do. This was a prolonged incident during which you were present the whole time.

Counts 97 and 98 are the oral and vaginal rape of Person 14. She had already been abused by others in the grooming gang. You obviously knew Person 14 and had been in her company before. On this particular day it appears that you went with her to drop your brother off in Manchester. On the way back, whilst you were alone in the car and driving, you made her suck your penis. She said no but you grabbed her head and pushed it towards your penis. She said she had no alternative but to perform oral sex on you. It was a prolonged act and only finished when you ejaculated in her mouth. She said she felt horrible. On a later occasion you raped her vaginally seemingly in your car. It is unclear whether you used contraception and whether you ejaculated. She did not want to have sex with you but felt she had to.

In her DVD she said, 'he was an alright kind of guy. I think it's just because of the way that he's built and because of what I heard about him and everything, and I just felt like I couldn't say no, that I didn't have a choice. That he is not a person to be messed with. And all of them are like, he's not a person to be messed with, but I think it's because he a lot bigger and stockier.' You used that girl for your own sexual gratification knowing that she had been sexually abused by others.

A

I have borne in mind everything which has been said on your behalf. No submissions were made in relation to the guidelines. It is submitted you do not have an extensive knowledge of the background, and had not attended any parties. It is said you really only knew Kid and that you did not regularly act with others. It is said that Person 14 must have been aged between 15 and 17, and between 14 and 16.

B

Person 3 spoke of you in better terms. You have no relevant convictions and some medical problems. This will be your first period in custody and as with all others I have regard to the principle of totality. Again I have aggregated the sentences and all the sentences will run concurrently with each other.

C

On count 95, five years' imprisonment. And on each of counts 97 and 98,xbv 15 years' imprisonment making 15 years in all.

And you may go down. Thank you.

Yes thank you very much. I will rise.

End of sentence.

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