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IN THE CROWN COURT AT SHEFFIELD Case No. T20157367  
Sheffield Combined Court Centre  
The Law Courts, 50 West Bar  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire  
S3 8PH  
Friday, 26 February 2016

Before:  
HER HONOUR JUDGE SARAH WRIGHT  
R E G I N A

- v -

BANNARAS HUSSAIN  
ARSHID HUSSAIN  
BASHARAT HUSSAIN  
SHELLEY DAVIES  
KAREN MACGREGOR  
QURBAN ALI  
REPORTING RESTRICTIONS APPLY

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MRS L McBRIDE and MR P HAMPTON and MS M COLBORNE (instructed by the Crown Prosecution Service) appeared on behalf of the Prosecution.  
MR SCHOFIELD appeared on behalf of the Defendant Bannaras Hussain.  
MR T KHAN QC appeared on behalf of the Defendant Arshid Hussain.  
MS G BATTS appeared on behalf of the Defendant Basharat Hussain.  
MS L SWEET appeared on behalf of the Defendant Davies.  
MR R WYN-JONES appeared on behalf of the Defendant MacGregor.  
MS BRICKMAN appeared on behalf of the Defendant Ali.

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## SENTENCING REMARKS

Friday, 26 February 2016

(Transcript prepared without the aid of documentation)

(12.23 p.m.)

**JUDGE WRIGHT:** The defendants can remain seated for the time being. Bannaras Hussain, you pleaded guilty at the outset of this trial and you, Arshid Hussain, Basharat Hussain, Shelley Davies, Karen MacGregor and Qurban Ali have now been found guilty by the jury of a series of crimes including serious sexual crimes. The offences involve the exploitation and abuse of young, vulnerable girls in the Rotherham area over a prolonged period from the late 1980s into the early 2000s. Each, in your own way, perpetrated or facilitated the sexual abuse of these young girls. Your victims were targeted, sexualised and, in some cases, subjected to acts of a degrading and violent nature. Each of your victims was vulnerable in some way either because they had unsettled home lives, had previously

suffered ill treatment or abuse, were in local authority care or were naïve young girls who, despite being from loving and caring families, were reaching adolescence and were susceptible to the attention that was given to them. Many of the victims were subjected to repeated abuse. There was a pattern of abuse which was repeated over and over again. Some victims were groomed, some coerced and intimidated. They were made to feel that they could not report what was happening to them. Even if they did, no action was taken and you were free to continue your exploitation of them. The abuse of the victims was often carefully planned. An abuser would build up their trust and it is a common feature of this case that many of the victims describe their abusers as initially caring and loving then turning to becoming controlling and domineering.

Some victims were given presents, other given drugs, and each given attention. The power that the abusers were then able to have over these children meant that many of the children distanced themselves from their parents or carers.

You, Arshid Hussain, in particular played a key role. You and your brothers, Bannaras Hussain and Basharat Hussain, were well-known in the area. You drove distinctive cars and had a reputation for violence. There was a perception by some of your victims that you appeared in their words to “rule Rotherham”. You exploited that to the full.

Before I deal with the role that each of you played in this appalling catalogue of offending, I wish to pay tribute to the victims in this case. Each of them, and I include those who also gave evidence of abuse perpetrated against them which is not the subject of charges on the indictment, has shown the utmost courage in coming forward. They came forward to give their accounts to the police despite in some cases having tried to speak up previously when nothing was done. For many years they have not been heard. They have had no voice. They gave evidence in court speaking about the most traumatic and intensely personal episodes from their past that none of them would willingly choose to discuss in a public forum.

They showed immeasurable courage in giving evidence and, in effect, having to relive their abuse in this court. It was a recurrent theme when they were accused in cross-examination on behalf of a defendant of inventing stories for financial gain or being accused of being fantasists but it became apparent that their real motive for coming forward was their desire to bring the issue of child sexual exploitation into the public domain and a wish to prevent it happening to other children in the future. They hope that by them speaking out, it will not just act as a deterrent to others behaving in this way towards young people but also ensure that the appropriate authorities will not fail to take action in the future in the face of evidence of such crimes.

Their bravery in speaking up, knowing they would be repeatedly accused of lying in this court, was considerable and cannot be underestimated. The impact of your offending upon the victims, their families and indeed the wider community has been devastating. Their childhood and adolescence can never be reclaimed. Each has suffered immense psychological harm. They continue and will continue to suffer throughout their lives as a result of your actions.

Their families also suffer. No one hearing the evidence in this trial could fail to forget one of the 2

victims describe how she hated her own body, how her mother used to cry herself to sleep at night, how a number of victims suffer from eating disorders and how some children changed from being happy, active, normal teenagers to withdrawn and secretive young people out of parental control often becoming involved in criminal behaviour themselves whilst under an abuser’s influence. The harm you have caused is of unimaginable proportions.

The offences for which I must pass sentence today took place many years ago at a time when the maximum sentences for some were considerably lower than that which is now available and at a time

when the sentencing climate was less severe than it is now. There is clear guidance as to how I should approach this task, set out in annex B to the Sexual Offences Definitive Guideline. I must sentence you in accordance with the sentencing regime applicable today, not at the date of the offence, but I am limited to the maximum sentence available at the time of the offence. I must assess the seriousness of the offence and must be guided as to that by the current guideline which offers assistance to me in the assessment of harm and culpability as well as giving broad ranges into which sentences should appropriately fall. I must consider the relevance of the passage of time carefully and decide whether that is an aggravating, mitigating or neutral factor. It seems to me that there has been delay in bringing you to justice because in many cases as a result of your behaviour towards them, your victims felt unable to speak up out of fear, some out of a sense of shame and some out of a fear of not being believed, or of fear of being blamed themselves for what was happening to them. Some had tried to speak up previously but nothing had been done.

Where it is necessary to do so, I must consider how the offences you have committed would be characterised under modern legislation and modern guidelines. For example, many of the offences of indecent assault with a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment would now be charged as either rape with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, or sexual activity with a child, Category 1A carrying a maximum sentence of 14 years. Procuring a woman under 21 to become a common prostitute carries a maximum sentence of two years' imprisonment. The modern equivalent, namely causing child prostitution of a child under 18 years, now carries a maximum sentence of 14 years. All the sexual offences pre-date the Sexual Offences Act 2003. I do have regard to the Sexual Offences Definitive Guideline and to the approach to sentencing in cases of sexual offences committed some years ago set out by the Court of Appeal in *R v H & Ors* [2011] EWCA Crim., 2753.

The grooming of each of your victims involved a significant degree of planning. Each of your young victims has suffered significant psychological harm. Given the number, nature and gravity of these offences and the combination of the offences, having regard to the applicable sentencing guidelines for equivalent offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, I have come to the conclusion that in the case of Arshid Hussain, Bannaras Hussain and Basharat Hussain, this takes the offences above the highest categories in the guidelines. To that extent I will therefore depart from the guidelines.

I will take into account, where appropriate, the identified aggravating and mitigating factors. In addition, in relation to the assault occasioning actual bodily harm offences, I have regard to the appropriate guideline. I take into account, where appropriate, that when committing some of the early offences, some the defendants were youths. If I were to pass the appropriate sentence, though for each offence, the total in some cases would be out of all proportion. I will therefore apply the totality principle in all cases to pass sentences which are just and proportionate.

The Offences. Victim 1, Karen MacGregor. Victim 1 left home because family relations had broken down. She was about 15 years of age. She lived in seemingly squalid conditions until she came to stay at your house, Karen MacGregor. It is right that she describes being made to feel welcome and was fed and clothed. There would frequently be Asian men in the house in the early hours. A couple of nights after she moved in, she was drinking vodka in the living room in the company of

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you, Karen MacGregor, and about six men. She became lightheaded and fell over. You, Karen MacGregor, laughed, as did the men, and she was taken upstairs by you and one of the men where she passed out. When she came to, you had left and her lower clothing had been removed and the man was on the bed inserting his fingers into her vagina wearing rings which hurt. She shouted twice loudly for help and he ran from the room but no

one came to help. You intended that man should rape her. After this incident nothing further happened

and she lived with you for about two years.

She describes the process of this trial as having been horrendous. She had locked these memories away. She has suffered the trauma and embarrassment of having to relive her experiences. Her mental health has deteriorated dramatically as a result of the process.

Victim 2. Arshid Hussain, Bannaras Hussain, Shelley Davies, Karen MacGregor, Qurban Ali. Victim 2 was born on [date] 1979. When she was 11 she was placed in local authority care by her mother. Prior to turning 11 she had been a well-behaved normal child but she started spending time with older girls and getting into trouble. She was placed at a children's home. She subsequently went home but within about six months she became difficult to manage and started to go missing once more. Asian men would call at the house and ask for her. She would return home, unkempt and secretive. Her mother explained to her that she didn't have to go out but she was clearly frightened of the consequences if she did not. When she was 12, her mother took her to social services offices and left her there telling the staff that she was leaving her with them. Again, she was placed in a children's home.

A little while after she left, her mother found some school exercise books hidden in the kitchen cupboard. Inside, victim 2 had written details of meetings with Asian men, of sexual activity that had taken place and where she had been. Her mother said that she showed them to social services and eventually disposed of them.

Victim 2 met you, Arshid Hussain, when she was first in care, when she would hang around Masbrough with friends. She refers to you, as did many, as Mad Ash. You were friendly initially but became nasty over time. You wanted her to perform oral sex and when she refused, you forced her. You were violent towards her and so after a time she stopped resisting. You sought her out on an almost daily basis and over time progressed to having some form of sexual activity I think her every time you saw her. Your exploitation of victim 2 was violent and protracted and went on for very many years. Initially, she attempted to say no but was always beaten if she refused and quickly learned to comply with your demands. You would force her to perform oral sex on you until you ejaculated. You subjected her to sexual intercourse vaginally and anally. You, Arshid Hussain, passed her to your brother, you, Bannaras Hussain, and you repeatedly forced her to perform oral sex upon you. She was also passed to friends and over time you, Arshid Hussain, gave her as payment to men for debts you owed. She was beaten, had a cigarette stubbed out on her chest, was tied up and raped, orally, vaginally and anally from a very young age often by numerous men one after the other at the say-so of you, Arshid Hussain.

You would control her and in between the violence tell her you cared about her and buy her food. She was insecure and vulnerable and believed you were her boyfriend. Violence

became a regular thing. She started taking heroin and became addicted over time. On more than one occasion she was taken to a house in Masbrough by you, Arshid Hussain. She was told that she had to perform sexual acts with you, Bannaras Hussain, and with others. She was made to perform oral sex upon you, Bannaras Hussain, at times in Clifton Park when you, Arshid Hussain, were present. On one occasion you, Bannaras Hussain, demanded that she give you oral sex and when she refused she was

knocked to the ground by you, Arshid Hussain. When her nose stopped bleeding, you then told her to do it. She did as she was told. You, Arshid Hussain, on one occasion dragged her into the boot of a car and took her to London. You told her that you owed the people in the house and so she had to have sex with two of them. She did but after she had finished another man appeared and she had sex with him too. She performed oral sex on a further two men. Even after she was moved to a different children's home the abuse continued, as you, Arshid Hussain, located her.

She gave evidence that she told the staff what was happening to her but they accused her of covering

up for running away. She became pregnant when she was 14 and had a termination. Throughout these years in the care system before she turned 16, she had to have sex with different Asian men on a daily basis. They were older, some in their thirties and sometimes up to three a day. You, Arshid Hussain, would put pressure on her to do it and leave her with no choice saying that if she loved you, she would do it. If she didn't, then you would hurt her.

Whilst still in care and aged about 14, victim 2 met you, Karen MacGregor, and you, Shelley Davies. You invited her to stay at Karen MacGregor's house. She was under the impression that you, Karen MacGregor, were in a relationship with you, Qurban Ali, whom she knew by the nickname Blind Ash. You, Qurban Ali, gave her heroin. Asian men came to the house and you, Karen MacGregor, and you, Shelley Davies, told her that she had to have sex with them in order to repay you for looking after you. You refused to let her leave the house assaulting her if she tried to leave.

After a time you, Arshid Hussain, became involved in what was happening in that house and would come to the house with your uncle, Qurban Ali. You would invite men up after you had had sex with victim 2 and tell her to perform sexual acts on them whilst you watched. You, Arshid Hussain, Karen MacGregor and Qurban Ali, were all involved in forcing her to have sexual intercourse with males at Karen MacGregor's house. She stayed at your house for a number of weeks. Eventually she managed to get away by climbing out of a window. You, Karen MacGregor, visited her at the children's home when she was still only 15, no doubt trying to persuade her to return to your home. It was clear that she was very frightened of you.

The effect of the abuse of her has been devastating. Her childhood memories are of pain and abuse. She is unable to trust anyone. She has suffered from eating disorders and anxiety throughout her life. You took her childhood from her.

Victim 3: Basharat Hussain. Victim 3 was 12 or 13 years of age and living at [children's home] when she met you, Basharat Hussain. She was invited out by an older girl who also lived there and you picked them up from the children's home in your car, apparently checking with a member of staff that it was all right to bring them home by 11 p.m. You took them for a meal in a restaurant in Rotherham, impressing your victim. At some point the other girl left with one of the males and you and a remaining male subjected her to sexual activity in the car, having been told by her that she was a virgin. She felt she had no option but to perform oral sex upon you and, on your instruction, the other men.

Following this, you would frequently have sex with her on repeated occasions. After leaving care she lived in awful conditions and she became aware that you were showing an interest in her younger sister and she tried to protect her. You sent two men to take her to a restaurant in Blackpool where she was left. She was kept in appalling, squalid conditions and treated as a slave having to work in the restaurant and have sex with the owner and on occasions his son and other men. She saw you on one occasion outside the restaurant talking to the owner. She was eventually helped by a charity called Risky Business to return to Rotherham where she discovered she had STIs and nits.

The trial has had a devastating effect upon her. She has subsequently suffered from periods of depression leaving her often unable to function day to day. She has been unable to build healthy relationships. She's suffered years of self-harming and eating disorders.

Victim 4. Bannaras Hussain. Victim 4 knew your sister, Bannaras Hussain, but when they fell out, victim 4 was 12 or 13 and there was a threat that the brothers were looking for her. She was a

vulnerable child in local authority care. A few weeks later she was approached by you, Bannaras Hussain. You were loud and foul-mouthed and shouted at her about your sister. However, the next time she saw you your attitude was different. At your invitation she got into your car and a sexual relationship developed. She was a virgin. If she refused to have sexual relations with you, you would push her to do so. She would perform oral sex upon you in the car and immediately afterwards you would drop her off. You were controlling and would use abusive language to her. She discovered after approximately seven months that you were having sex with other girls. I do take into account that as a result of your pleas of guilty your victim has not had to give evidence. She has struggled with relationships. She has self-harmed. Your offending against her as a child has had a devastating impact upon her throughout her life.

Victim 5. Bannaras Hussain. You, Bannaras Hussain, met victim 5 when she was 13 in June 1997. She was persuaded by a friend to go to your house on [road name] opposite your [relative]'s house. You took them to your bedroom and soon after her friend left, you pushed victim 5 down on the bed and got on top of her trying to remove her lower clothing, although she resisted. You told her to be quiet when she asked you to stop. She tried to push you off but you took her trousers and knickers off and forced your penis inside-- into her vagina, not using any contraception and ejaculating inside her. Later she bled and didn't dare to tell anyone.

Over time you pestered victim 5 to spend time with you. she would sneak into your house to see you and you introduced her to alcohol and drugs and became very controlling of her. Again, I take into account that you have, by your pleas of guilty, saved your victim from having to give evidence. Your offending has affected her life greatly.

Victim 6. Arshid Hussain, Basharat Hussain. Victim 6 was a particularly vulnerable young girl. She had been abused from the age of seven by various other men. She knew you, Arshid Hussain, and you, Basharat Hussain, from when she was 14. Because her mother was an alcoholic, she was placed in a children's home but she would run away and stay at her mother's flat. She was taking drugs. You, Arshid Hussain, turned up at the flat and shoulder barged the door and asked her if she knew who you were. You ordered her to suck your penis. You forced her to her knees calling her a white bitch and trash telling her that Asian women didn't perform oral sex as it was against their religion. When she tried to refuse, you took hold of her hair, refused to let her get a condom, forcibly pushed your penis into her mouth and ejaculated.

You, Basharat Hussain, went to the flat later. She knew that you would expect oral sex. She knew she couldn't refuse. You then penetrated her vagina with your penis. Thereafter, you would both visit her at her mother's flat and force her to perform oral sex upon you. She was frightened of both of you. You were violent, would pull her by the hair and force her to continue until you ejaculated. This would either be in her mouth or on to her face. She says that although she knew you, Bannaras Hussain, you never behaved in that way towards her. She described that the Hussain brothers, in her words, owned Rotherham and she felt compelled to do what she was told. She became involved in criminality with you both and was sent to prison for six-and-a-half years as a result.

You took her to Bradford and Halifax and she handled guns and drugs for both of you. She was also 6

made to work as a prostitute by both of you. She talked about how nobody listened at the time. She has substantial issues with self-confidence now. She describes how she has to get undressed in the dark as she hates herself and, as she said, that's just not right. He took away her childhood. She has suffered as an adult from anxiety and panic attacks. She even found writing her victim personal statement too upsetting to be able to complete it.

Victim 7. Basharat Hussain, Arshid Hussain. Victim 7 met you, Basharat Hussain, when she was 15

and you were about 22. She had up until then had a happy, normal childhood. She was a virgin and did not drink or take drugs. She helped to deliver leaflets for your window

business. Before her 16th birthday she performed oral sex on you on many occasions. You became violent. The first time you tied her wrists with tie wraps and she had to hide in some bushes. The following day you were contrite and bought her jewellery as an apology. This established a pattern of behaviour by you towards her. She was forced to store drugs money and guns for you at her home. She always did as directed. She was frightened of you. You threatened to burn her house down and told her you had arranged a fire that took place at a house opposite hers. You would take her to a flat in Sheffield where you forced her to perform oral sex on different men in the flat.

On one occasion there was a group of Asian men, including you, Arshid Hussain, at the flat. You, Basharat Hussain, told her to go into the bedroom with you and when she refused you forced her on to the bed and had vaginal sex with her against her will. Thereafter, you laughed at her and tried to push her towards one of the men there whose penis was exposed. When she resisted, you tied her hands behind her back and you, Arshid Hussain, blindfolded her. She was then forced to suck men's penises. This was not the only time that you, Basharat Hussain, made her perform oral sex on others in the flat. Sometimes you, Arshid Hussain, were present. It happened approximately eight times over an approximately two-year period.

On another occasion you both bound her hands and feet and put a sheet over her head. She could hear a girl trying to scream and sounds of sexual activity taking place. She could also smell petrol. Another time a similar thing happened when just you, Basharat Hussain, were present. She was placed in the bedroom where sexual activity could be heard again. She tried to get out by shuffling away. She was kicked and she was told that you were going to set fire to the shoes that she was wearing. She could smell burning and after that, water was poured on to her feet. You bought her new trainers to replace the damaged ones.

She eloquently articulates in her victim personal statement what all of the victims must be feeling when she says: "Why am I still scared? Why now, after all these years, do I feel this cruel agony? I am haunted by the disgusting memories, flashbacks and continuous nightmares." She describes you, Basharat Hussain, as stealing the person she was and alienating her from her family. She describes contemplating taking her own life when she became pregnant and, indeed, on occasions since. She feels worthless and ashamed as a result of your treatment of her. She feels guilt. She should not have to feel like that. You are responsible, not her.

Victim 8. Arshid Hussain. Victim 8 met you, Arshid Hussain, when she went with a friend to visit you in prison. Sometime after you were released you began a sexual relationship with her. The first time you had sex with her was after you picked her up from a children's pop and crisps night. She was about 13 or 14.

I take into account, as I do in a number of cases, that charges of unlawful sexual intercourse do not appear on the indictments as they are time barred and do not sentence you, therefore, for that behaviour. However, she frequently performed oral sex upon you and on one occasion you performed

oral sex upon her. As with others of your victims, you played on her insecurities and she was controlled by you. You were violent towards her. You introduced her to drugs. You never used contraception and she got pregnant. When she told you, you took up with a younger girl, also one of your victims. Your brother, Bannaras Hussain, persuaded victim 8 to terminate the pregnancy telling her you had children with seven English women already. The termination was devastating for her. Your behaviour towards her has affected her relationships throughout her life. Her relationship with

her family suffered and she has suffered from depression throughout her adult life.

Victim 9. Arshid Hussain, Bannaras Hussain. Victim 9 was around 15 years old and a drug addict having started taking drugs when she was 11 when she worked at [taxi firm].

You, Arshid Hussain and you, Bannaras Hussain, would visit her at the taxi office, being nice initially. You, Arshid Hussain, supplied her with drugs, heroin and crack cocaine but you soon became violent and controlling towards her. You, Arshid Hussain, took her with another man to the red light area of Doncaster. You told her she was to have sex with men in cars. So it was she started working as a prostitute receiving between £200 to £300 per night but having to give all the money to you, Arshid Hussain and you, Bannaras Hussain. She was vulnerable having been abused previously and went along with what you told her to do. She described vividly how it was better to go along with what you wanted as it was less painful than the assaults you would subject her to if she resisted.

You effectively gave her no choice. You, Arshid Hussain and you, Bannaras Hussain, also took her to a house in [town] when she was between the ages of 17 and 19. She was taking drugs then and so her memory is hazy but she does recall there were other girls at the house who she wasn't permitted to associate with. The house was like a brothel. There was a constant traffic of people coming to the house. She spent her time, in her words, stoned on drink and drugs having to have sex with whoever was next. She recalls waking up in a room naked and noting that there were used condoms in the room. Both you, Arshid Hussain, and you, Bannaras Hussain, would physically assault her. The abuse of her only stopped when she was about 19 and left Rotherham.

She has only recently been able to start to rebuild her life. She expresses how you have taken 15 years of her life from her. Your offending against her has also had an effect upon her own children. The court process has meant that it has felt to her that you have both taken over her life yet again. Victim 10. Bannaras Hussain, Arshid Hussain. Victim 10 was groomed by a large amount of men when she was younger. On one occasion when she was 13 or 14, she met you, Arshid Hussain, and you took her and two other girls to a flat in Sheffield. She was flattered that you chose her to have sex with. You had sexual intercourse and oral sex with her in that flat. After you'd finished you left the room and a group of older males ran in, clearly intent on having sexual relations with her. She managed to run out. You took her and the other girls and dropped them at a garage making them find their own way back to Sheffield.

Also, when she was 13 to 14 years old, she performed oral sex on you, Bannaras Hussain, in your car and you ejaculated in her mouth. On another occasion she performed oral sex upon you when you were parked close to the police station. Victim 10 said that she and her sister were pretty and thin when they were teenagers and they received a lot of attention from Asian men. She knows she was being used but was immature and never thought to say "no". Her life has been greatly affected by your offending. She's struggled with relationships. She gets flashbacks and suffers from anxiety and panic attacks. As with others, even though she knows she was not the one doing wrong, she feels disgusted and ashamed.

Victim 11. Arshid Hussain. Victim 11 first met you, Arshid Hussain, when she was 15. She was excited about your meetings as you had a flash car and were older than her. You knew she wasn't 16

and yet you had a sexual relationship with her. She thought at the time that this was a proper relationship. However, as with others, your attitude towards her changed and you began to be controlling of her. One day you made her get in a car occupied by four Asian males. She was taken to a house that was full of Asian men. Some of them tried to touch her sexually. She was at the house for about two-and-a-half hours before they agreed to take her home. You clearly intended that she was to



have sex with those men.

As a result of your offending, she lacks self-confidence. She feels ugly and worthless and she too, like many of the victims, feels ashamed. She suffers from anxiety and depression. Having buried her feelings for many years, she has had to confront them again as the trial process has brought back to the surface her traumatic memories.

Victim 12. Arshid Hussain. Victim 12 was 14 when she met you, Arshid Hussain. You were 24. You knew her age from the outset. You knew she went to school. Nevertheless, you entered into a full sexual relationship with her. You indulged in vaginal and oral sex with her and penetrated her vagina with your fingers. On one occasion you penetrated her anus with your penis without her consent. You drove a wedge between her and her family. She often went missing under your influence and they would search for her. You would take her to different locations to avoid detection. You would sometimes climb through her bedroom window and have sex with her there. Her parents were distraught at what was going on.

She became pregnant when she was still 14. You told her she couldn't keep the baby because you would be sent to prison so she had a termination. In February 2000 a protection order was granted in the light of her first pregnancy. A police protection order was taken out as she was considered to be in moral and physical danger. She was placed in foster care but became pregnant again when she was 15 and gave birth to your son. You involved her in criminal offending.

Her victim impact statement highlights how she was just a child when you abused her. This was not a relationship as has been suggested by the defence. She was a child and you were an adult. She lost her education, her friends and her family as a result of your actions. She too has self-harmed and suffered from eating disorders. She vividly describes her life as being shattered into a million pieces and she feels she is just held together by sticky tape. Despite the substantial hurdles she has encountered, your victim has shown considerable courage, tenacity and a steely determination in bringing these horrific crimes to the attention of the public.

Victim 13. Bannaras Hussain, Arshid Hussain. Victim 13 met you, Bannaras Hussain, when she was 14. You saw that she wore school uniform and knew how old she was. She described you as being kind to her and gave her cannabis which relaxed her. You took advantage of her and a sexual relationship developed. You regularly had sexual intercourse with her and she also performed oral sex on you many times. Her mother was a single parent and struggled to deal with her associating with older Asian males. Your victim got pregnant when she was 14 and had a termination. She was 15 when you, Arshid Hussain, began to have sex with her. You had vaginal sex with her and she performed oral sex upon you. You knew her friends. You knew exactly how old she was. Your offending has greatly affected her self-confidence. She too has suffered from depression throughout her adult life. Her mother has also been greatly affected.

Victim 14. Bannaras Hussain. Victim 14 met you, Bannaras Hussain, and your brothers when she was 14 to 15. Her mother gave her a lot of freedom and she regularly truanted from school and spent her time with Asian males smoking cannabis and having sex. She was flattered by your attentions, Bannaras Hussain, as you were notorious in the area. One night you drove her to a secluded location in the Peak District. You told her that a lot of people had been drowned there and she was scared. You

exposed your penis and told her to suck it. She refused and you warned her that she wouldn't be driven home otherwise. She was frightened at the prospect of being abandoned and so she relented. You ejaculated into her mouth. Again, I note that as a result of your guilty plea, she has not had to give evidence. However, what you did to her has affected her whole life thereafter, causing her relationship

problems and anxiety.

Victim 15, Basharat Hussain. Victim 15 was involved with you, Basharat Hussain, for over 13 years. The relationship became sexual when she was still 15. Despite her mother's disapproval, she was initially besotted by you and would perform oral sex on you and have sex with you on a regular basis. You became controlling towards her. She felt she could not escape from the relationship. You would alternatively be violent towards her and then contrite. You threatened to harm her or her family if she said she didn't want to go out with you. You said you would burn her brother's house down. You also called her on one occasion to let her know you were watching her brother. She took you seriously and was deeply worried for her brother's safety. On one occasion when you had been drinking and under the influence of drugs you set about her, verbally and physically. You called her a slag who was not worthy of carrying your mother's bags.

You slapped her hard, knocking her to the floor. You punched her and spat at her and told her she would have to dig her own grave. She thought you were going to kill her and she was terrified. On another occasion in York you attacked her while she slept, strangling her and spat in her face. Your behaviour followed a pattern of being calm, then becoming violent and then remorseful. Your victim made complaints to the police but you told her that you paid someone in CID to give you information and you knew of her plans to go to a refuge. Accordingly, she refused the assistance. It is clear victim 15 was subjected to years of mental and physical cruelty at your hands.

Would the defendants please stand. Arshid Hussain, you are now 40 years of age. You have been convicted of 23 offences committed against nine victims. Your offending is particularly grave and your culpability is particularly high. You have committed serious offences against nine victims. I have had to consider whether a life sentence would be appropriate in your case. I take into account the young age of your victims and their vulnerability, your targeting and grooming of them, your abuse of your victims and the prostituting of some of them to other men, the repeated abuse and length of time over which it occurred, and the serious, psychological harm suffered by your victims. This was a catalogue of offending over very many years. However, I do take into account that this offending appeared to cease about 15 years ago. I have to consider whether the criteria established in the case law for a discretionary sentence of life imprisonment are satisfied and in particular I have considered the case of *R v Chapman* [2011] 1 Cr.App. R, sentencing 377; and that in order to impose a discretionary life sentence, the court has to be satisfied of various matters including one, the sentence has to reflect the seriousness of the offence; two, whether the seriousness of the offences warrants a very long sentence – it clearly does in your case – three, whether the period during which the offender represents a danger to the public cannot be realistically estimated at the date of sentence, and four, whether the sentence length was necessary to achieve the aim of public protection.

You suffer from numerous chronic health issues, which have been well documented. I have come to the conclusion, therefore, that despite the very serious nature of the offences, a life sentence is not necessarily to achieve the aim of public protection in your case. Although you raped victim 2 when she was very young, you would have been under 18 years at the time and the counts cover a period of her being aged 13 or over. That means you are not an offender of particular concern under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, s.236(a). For the avoidance of doubt, therefore, as a result I do not impose a further period of one year for which you will be subject to licence.

I take into account your considerable health issues. Your illness will be managed within the custodial setting. There are arrangements in place to ensure that prisoners with severe medical conditions in

public sector prisons are treated in accordance with their rights under the European Convention of Human Rights. You have no previous convictions for sexual offences.

The sentences upon you are as follows: Count 2, eight years' imprisonment; Counts 5, 35 and 37, two years' imprisonment; Count 36, 15 years' imprisonment; and Counts 3, 4, and 16, 20 years' imprisonment; all those sentences to run concurrently. Count 24, eight years'

imprisonment; Count 26, two years' imprisonment; Count 30, three years' imprisonment; Count 31, eight years' imprisonment; Count 41, 12 months' imprisonment; Counts 43, 44 and 45, five years' imprisonment; and Count 46, 10 years' imprisonment; all those sentences to run concurrently with each other but consecutively to the period of 20 years. Counts 33, 34, and 47, five years' imprisonment; Counts 38 and 39, four years' imprisonment; and Count 40, 18 months' imprisonment; all those sentences to run concurrently with each other but consecutively to the periods of 20 and 10 years. That makes the total sentence on you, Arshid Hussain, one of 35 years' imprisonment. Basharat Hussain, you are now 39 years of age. Your offending is also grave and your culpability is particularly high. You committed 15 serious offences against four victims. You too are not classified as an offender of particular concern under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, s.236(a) as the indictment in relation to victim 3 is framed as when she was 12 or 13. As a result, I do not impose a further period of one year for which you will be subject to licence. You have no previous convictions for sexual offences, although you do have previous convictions for violence.

The sentences upon you are as follows: Counts 20, 21 and 22 and 23, two years' imprisonment on each to run consecutively making eight years. Count 25, eight years' imprisonment; Count 27, two years' imprisonment, to run concurrently. Count 30, three years' imprisonment; Count 28, five years' imprisonment; Counts 31 and 32, eight years' imprisonment and Count 29, 12 years' imprisonment. Those sentences to run concurrently with each other but consecutively to the eight years. Count 48, five years' imprisonment; Counts 49, 50 and 51, two years' imprisonment on each, all to run concurrently with each other but consecutively to the periods of eight and 12 years. That makes a total sentence upon you, Basharat Hussain, one of 25 years' imprisonment.

Bannaras Hussain, you are now 36 years of age. You pleaded guilty at the outset of this trial to 10 offences against seven victims. You've spared your victims the trauma of giving evidence against you. I give you appropriate credit for that. I also take into account your relatively young age at the time of these offences. You have committed offences against a large number of victims. If I had been sentencing you after trial, I would have seen no reason to differentiate between you and your brother,

Basharat Hussain, and would have passed a total sentence in the region of 25 years. However, giving you appropriate credit for your guilty pleas, the sentences are as follows, the counts being on the original indictment: Count 7, five years' imprisonment; Count 26, four years' imprisonment; Count 28, eight years' imprisonment; all those sentences to run concurrently. Counts 40 and 43, 18 months' imprisonment; Count 41, 11 years' imprisonment; Counts 46, 47 and 55, four years' imprisonment; and Count 57, five years' imprisonment, all those sentences to run concurrently with each other but consecutively to the period of eight years. That makes a total sentence upon you, Bannaras Hussain, one of 19 years' imprisonment.

Karen MacGregor, you are now 59 years of age. You have no previous convictions for sexual offences. I have to sentence you for four offences against two victims. It is clear you targeted vulnerable young women and offering them accommodation at your home then expected them to have sex with men. I take into account that you yourself are not said to be present or indeed physically assisting in any way. The sentences I pass are as follows: Count 1, eight years' imprisonment; Counts 14 and 15, two years' imprisonment and Count 16, 13 years' imprisonment. All those sentences are to run concurrently making a total sentence in your case of 13 years' imprisonment.

Qurban Ali, you are now 53 years of age. I have to sentence you for one offence of conspiracy to rape

committed against one victim. You suffer from a degenerative eye condition. You have no relevant previous convictions. I take into account that you yourself were not said to be present or indeed physically assisting in any way. The sentence upon you in respect of Count 16 is one of 10 years' imprisonment.

Shelley Davies, you are now 40 years of age. You have no previous convictions for sexual offences. You fall into a very different category from the other the defendants. You have limited involvement in these offences under the direction of others, notably Karen MacGregor. I accept that you too were a vulnerable young woman who was procured to become a prostitute and who was a victim of trafficking. However, you assisted in procuring one of the victims, who was a young girl and assisted in keeping her at Karen MacGregor's house against her will. By your presence you added a legitimacy to that house.

I have read a psychiatric report that has been prepared on your behalf. Because you too were a victim of sexual exploitation I can take an exceptional course in your case. The sentence is as follows: Counts 14 and 15, 18 months' imprisonment on each count to run concurrently, suspended for two years. If you commit any further offences within the next two years, you will serve the 18 months and anything else on top for any further offences.

Arshid Hussain, Basharat Hussain, Bannaras Hussain, Karen MacGregor and Qurban Ali, you will each be subject to the notification requirements. Your counsel will explain to you the effect of those sentences. I make the sexual harm prevention orders as requested. Take them down. Shelley Davies may remain.

(1.12 p.m.)

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OPUS 2 DIGITAL TRANSCRIPTION