



# The World Class Policing Awards 2019

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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**Embargoed until 00.01 on Friday 15 November**

## **Metropolitan Police Highly Commended At World Class Policing Awards For Its Work Tackling Female Genital Mutilation And Forced Marriage**

The Metropolitan Police Service has been 'highly commended' at the prestigious World Class Policing Awards for its ground-breaking work to tackle female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Operation Limelight brings together the Metropolitan Police, UK Border Security, Homeland Security Investigations and the FBI to tackle harmful practices such as FGM and Forced Marriage.

Often delivered before and after the three main school holidays, Operation Limelight targets flights to locations where FGM and Forced Marriage is prevalent.

Operation Limelight focusses on flights connecting the UK to destinations where there is a high prevalence of forced marriage. Tactics include educating airport and airline staff to spot the signs and increase their confidence in reporting suspicious activity to police.

Intelligence is also used to identify and seek victims who are about to leave or have just arrived back in the UK.

It also seeks to raise awareness of harmful practices, identify vulnerability, safeguarding those at risk and developing intelligence to identify possible perpetrators, backed by a very proactive communication strategy.

The USA has adopted Operation Limelight as an intervention tactic, delivering it to 14 US cities in 2019.

As a result, the 'Proclamation of Interagency Support for Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) Investigations Between U.K and U.S. Law Enforcement' was signed at the US Embassy on 30th August 2018.

This far-reaching agreement aims to "share intelligence between the US and the UK, enhance knowledge of, and response to FGM."

The force beat off competition from 54 finalists, drawn from more than 100 outstanding entries from across the globe, to win a highly commended prize at the new event recognising outstanding police work from across the world.



Judges commented that this was a “strong submission in an area of work under immense international scrutiny which directly affects police legitimacy and the way policing is viewed as progressive and inclusive.”

A spokesman added: “This was a major safeguarding operation that has warned (and possibly deterred) many thousands of suspects and victims and has now been replicated across multiple US cities. It is also being considered by other international partners. An impressive nomination deserving of its commendation.”

The World Class Policing Awards are sponsored by Accenture.

The Awards specifically recognise and celebrate the collaborative nature of policing - whether that is a brilliant investigation, a business change project or a multi-agency partnership - in delivering the most effective and efficient way to protect our communities and keep them safe.

Attendees at the Awards – which took place at the Grosvenor Hotel in Park Lane, London - included Chief Police officers from across the Globe as well as winners, their partners and sponsors. They were presented by experienced broadcaster Jeremy Vine.

### Notes to Editors:

- Media enquiries should be directed to [Martis Media](#) via [natalie@martismedia.co.uk](mailto:natalie@martismedia.co.uk)
  - More information about the awards can be found at [www.worldclasspolicing.com](http://www.worldclasspolicing.com)
  - The hashtag for the event was #WorldClassPolicing
  - More information about the awards can be found at [www.worldclasspolicing.com](http://www.worldclasspolicing.com)
  - The inaugural World Class Policing Awards took place 14 November, at the Grosvenor Hotel in Park Lane, London. Six winners were announced at the ceremony, one of which was named the overall winner. There were also six commendations.
  - The 54 finalists were selected from over 100 entries received from UK and overseas police forces.
  - The World Class Policing Awards are led by a Steering Committee experienced in policing and managing projects in the police sector, as well as expertise in running successful police events: Stephen Kavanagh QPM, former Chief Constable of Essex Police and Chair of the World Class Policing Awards Steering Committee, Paul Leeks, MD of Glasgows - the awards and events specialists who have delivered the Bravery Awards for the Police Federation of England and Wales for the past eight years, Allan Fairley, UK Public Safety MD for Accenture and Chair of techUK's Justice & Emergency Services Committee, Ian Barrett - CoPaCC Director and publishing professional in the police sector with experience developing and delivering the Police Review Gala Awards and Bernard Rix, Publisher of Policing Insight.
  - The awards are supported by the [National Police Chiefs Council \(NPCC\)](#), the [Police Federation of England & Wales \(PFEW\)](#), the [Police Superintendents Association \(PSA\)](#), the [College of Policing \(CoP\)](#), the [Police ICT Company \(PICTCo\)](#) and [Tech UK](#).
  - The Founder Sponsors of the awards are [Accenture](#), [Sopra Steria](#), [Chorus Intelligence](#), [Grant Thornton](#) and [KPMG](#). Dinner is sponsored by [Amazon Web Services](#) and the Drinks Reception by [NICE](#).
  - Policing Insight ([policinginsight.com](http://policinginsight.com)) and Police Oracle ([policeoracle.com](http://policeoracle.com)) are the official Media Partners for the World Class Policing Awards 2019.
- For information about the awards or the nominations process, contact: [wcpa@glasgows.co.uk](mailto:wcpa@glasgows.co.uk) or call: +44 (0) 1772 767782



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