

Court: Sex assault gang 'belittled' and passed around Rotherham schoolgirls

The latest Muslim rape gang trial started at Crown Court Sheffield earlier this week and this one is being reported in national and local press. From the [Daily Mail](#).

EIGHT men on trial for sexually abusing schoolgirls in Rotherham made their victims feel that "sex was the price they had to pay for friendship".

Mohammed Imran Akhtar, Nabeel Kurshid, Iqlak Yousaf, Tanweer Ali, Ajmal Rafiq, Salah El-Hakam, Asif Ali and another defendant, who cannot be named for legal reasons, went on trial today at Sheffield Crown Court, charged with 28 offences against five girls between 1998 and 2005.



*Left to right, top to bottom
Nabeel Kurshid, Mohammed Imran Ali Akhtar (trying to disguise
himself), Amjal Rafiq,
Salah Ahmed El-Hakam, Tanweer Ali, Iqlak Yousaf.*

The youngest girl was just 11 or 12 years old when the alleged abuse began by the defendants, who were all either teenagers or in their twenties at the time of the alleged offending.

Ms Michelle Colborne, prosecuting, said the alleged victims were “targeted, sexualised and, on some occasions, subjected to assaults of a degrading and violent nature”. She said all of the girls were local and some had been “lured by the excitement of friendship with older Asian youths”.

All eight men lived in Rotherham or visited the town centre

frequently, she said.

Akhtar, Kurshid, Yousaf, Tanweer Ali and Rafiq were friends who were "content to pass girls around and use them". El-Hakam, Asif Ali and the unnamed defendant "lived in Rotherham, or frequented the area, in order to exploit the vulnerable".

"Rarely did any one male act alone," Ms Colborne said.

She said Akhtar made one girl, who was 12 or 13 when they first met in the late 1990s, perform sexual acts on him at an abandoned factory in Tinsley and at a tip in Rawmarsh, and would give her cannabis. Akhtar is alleged to have raped another girl, who was 14 or 15 at the time, forced her to perform sexual acts on him, and forced her to have sex with others.

His friend, Tanweer Ali, repeatedly made the girl's sister perform sexual acts on him and he would perform sexual acts on her, said Ms Colborne.

Ms Colborne said El-Hakam met the same girl when she was 11 or 12 and raped her on multiple occasions when she was too intoxicated to consent.

The unnamed defendant is accused of raping the same girl three times in late 2002 including an alleged occasion when he abducted her and took her to Ulley Country Park.

Kurshid and Yousaf are also accused of targeting the girl – raping her repeatedly and forcing her to perform sexual acts on them, Ms Colborne said.

Tanweer Ali is accused of raping the same girl under a bridge in Sheffield and is said to have been aided by Mohammed Imran Akhtar.

Ms Colborne said Yousaf, Kurshid and another man, who is not involved in the trial, raped a 16-year-old girl in Sherwood Forest and made her pregnant.

The men deny all the offences. The trial continues.