

Useful Contacts

For further information / advice:

ACCM UK (FGM) - A Non-Government organisation Charity working to tackle and eliminate harmful traditional practices that impact and violate the human rights and wellbeing of girls and women:

Tel: 01234 356910
www.accmuk.com

FORWARD - A Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development. For African women and girls.

Tel: 020 8960 4000
www.forward.org.uk

Next Link - Support for black / ethnic minority women suffering, or at risk from, domestic abuse

Tel: 0117 925 0680
www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)

24 hour hotline.
Tel: 0800 800 5000

Child Line – This service is free at any time.

Tel: 0800 1111.



www.bucks-lscb.org.uk

Acknowledgements:

- Text adapted from NHS Bristol Public Health leaflet
- Picture on front cover - Amnesty International (Sweden)



Female Genital Mutilation



BSCB Information Leaflet

What is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is any procedure which involves the partial or complete removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Many believe that FGM is necessary to ensure acceptance by their community, however this custom is against the law in the UK and many other countries.

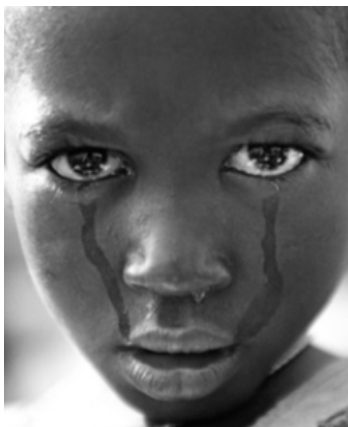
Female Genital Mutilation & The Law

All types of FGM have been illegal in the UK since the 1985 Female Circumcision Prohibition Act. The new Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act 2003 updates and extends the original act.

It is now 'an offence to take UK nationals and those with permanent UK residency overseas for the purpose of circumcision, to aid and abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of Female Genital Mutilation (all types of circumcision). It is illegal for anyone to circumcise women or children for cultural or non-medical reason'.

A person convicted of an offence under the FGM Act 2003 is liable to imprisonment for up to 14 years.

Re-infibulation is also illegal, women will not be sewn back up following child birth.



Types of FGM

FGM Type 1

Sunna - removal of the hood of the clitoris.

FGM Type 2

Excision - removal of the clitoris with partial or total excision of the labia minora.

FGM Type 3

Infibulation - removal of the clitoris and labial minora with narrowing by stitching of the vaginal opening.

FGM Type 4

All other types of harmful traditional practices that mutilate the female genitalia, incl. pricking, cutting, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterisation.

Who is at risk of FGM?

The average age for FGM to be carried out is around 14 years old. However it can vary from soon after birth, up until adulthood.

It can also be classed as Honour Based Violence.

Practising communities include (but are not exclusive to) Ethiopian, Eritrean, Sudanese, Somalian, Nigerian and Sierra Leonean.

These countries have significant populations that practise a variety of religions which are often used to justify the practice of FGM. However, this is a mistaken belief as FGM is primarily a social practice, not a religious one.

Protecting Children -
Not everyone's occupation,
but everybody's job!

Health Implications

Short term health implications include: severe pain and shock; broken limbs (from being held down); infection; increased risk of HIV and AIDS; urine retention; injury to adjacent tissues and immediate fatal haemorrhaging.

Long term health implications include: uterus, vaginal and pelvic infections; cysts and neuromas, infertility, increased risk of fistula, complications in pregnancy and child birth; sexual dysfunction; difficulties in menstruation; considerable psycho-sexual, psychological and social consequences; trauma; flashbacks and depression.

An estimated 10% of victims die from short term effects and 25% from recurrent problems.

What can you do?

If you are concerned that a girl is at risk of FGM, this must be shared with the Social Care Referral & Assessment Team and / or the Police Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU)

Social Care Referral & Assessment Team (North): 01296 387932 / 387957

Social Care Referral & Assessment Team (South): 01494 475211 / 475037

Out of Hours Duty Team: 01494 675802

Child Abuse Investigation Unit (CAIU):
via 08458 505 505

In an emergency, contact the police on 999.