

# Female Genital Mutilation



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# FGM: International Level

- **FGM is abuse, a health and Human Right issue for girls and women.**
- **UN General Assembly resolution on the elimination of FGM in December 2012 is an important step in effecting global efforts to tackle FGM.**
- **UN Commission on the status of women March 2013.**



# Female Genital Mutilation

- In its many and complex cultural meanings, FGM is a long-standing tradition that has become inseparable from ethnic and social identity among many groups



- **Convention and Charter**
- Convention against Torture and other cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1981
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Right (the Banjul Charter) and its Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa.
- The convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against women 1979 – The Vienna Declaration and programme of Action 1993
- The Beijing Declaration on Women's Right 1995 and the United Nation Convention on the Right of the child 1989.



# UK and Europe

- The European Parliament estimated that 500,000 women and girls.
- 180,000 are at risk each year in EU countries.
- The European Union and its Member States, have also committed to act against this form of violence.



# Current activities in UK

- Lots of media coverage and interest.
- Government pledged £35million to prevent FGM, through education and by challenging culture. Community engagement.
- More Clinics to support women and girls.
- Young people speak out.
- Europe wide campaign.
- Community Engagement





# *Overview and Health Risks of FGM*

The practice of FGM is a violation of Human Right and it is crucial that we raise awareness and protect children who are at risk.

- FGM denies Women and Children security, personal liberty and right to health.



# The Extent and Evidence

- World-wide 100-140 million of girls and women have undergone some form of FGM.
- An estimated 6,000 are at risk per day worldwide and about 2 million or more undergo FGM each year



# Amended typology

## Type I

Partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or the prepuce (clitoridectomy)

Type Ia, removal of clitoral hood or prepuce only

Type Ib, removal of clitoris with prepuce

90%

## Type II

Partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (excision)

Type IIa, removal of labia minora only

Type IIb, partial or total removal of clitoris and labia minora

Type IIc, partial or total removal of clitoris, labia minora and labia majora

## Type III

Narrowing of the vaginal orifice with creation of a covering seal by cutting and appositioning the labia minora and/or the labia majora, with or without excision of the clitoris (infibulation).

10%

Type IIIa, removal and apposition of the labia minora;

Type IIIb, removal and apposition of the labia majora.

**Re-infibulation** falls under this type.

## Type IV

Unclassified: All other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, for example, pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterization.

No prevalence data

# Current Figures in the UK

- An estimated 103,000 women aged 15-49 compare to 66,000 in 2001.
- Over half of the women age 15-49 with FGM, 53,000 were born in countries with almost universal Type 111 FGM.
- Across government work is taking place to tackle FGM.





Type 1 – Clitoridectomy

Type 2 – Excision of the clitoris with partial or total excision of the labia minora

Type 3 - Excision of part or all the external genitalia and stitching/narrowing of the vaginal opening  
(also known as infibulation)



- Type 4

This is unclassified – includes pricking, piercing or incising of the clitoris and/or labia; stretching of the clitoris and/or labia, cauterization by burning of the clitoris and surrounding tissue; scraping of the tissue surrounding the vaginal orifice or cutting of the vagina, introduction of corrosive substances or herbs into the vagina to cause bleeding.



# The Extent and Evidence

- About 10% of children and women die from the short term effects – such as haemorrhage, shock or infection.
- Another 25% suffer lifelong disability and may die from the long-term effects.



# Reasons for FGM and the Age

- Tradition
- Religion
- Prevent Rape
- Income for circumcisers
- Preservation of virginity
- Promote cleanliness
- Age varies from tribe to tribe





# Health Risks of FGM

- Shock, Pain, Urinary Retention
- Infection, Fracture or Dislocation
- Injury to Adjacent tissue, death
- Failure to Heal, Dermoid Cyst
- Psychological problems-Flash backs
- Recurrent UTI
- Fistulae (Rectum or vaginal)



# Health Professionals: Roles and Responsibilities

- Protect and safeguard children
- Be alert to the possibility of FGM
- Be able to recognise FGM
- Be able to act when a child is at risk or may already undergone FGM



# Looking into the Future

- More collaboration with all professionals and NGO's in order to more work forward
- Close working relationship with the police, teachers and immigration officers
- More links and work with Africa and other practising communities



# Conclusion

- As we know FGM is practised among migrant and refugee communities who tend to settle in urban areas.
- The government policy of dispersing refugees and asylum seekers to rural, isolated centres has a major implications for women Who have experienced FGM.





# Conclusion - contd

- A better knowledge and understanding of the cultural factors relating to FGM is important in order to change people's attitude.
- It is vital that FGM laws are fully implemented and that governments, agencies, professionals and communities work together to end FGM in one generation



# Quotation from Clients

- “People are worried about their daughter’s future. If she did not have FGM, they think she might have intercourse before she gets married and if she gets married she does not have to say her sexual feelings to her husband as this will make him suspicious of her that she has had sex before”

# Raising Awareness

- Multi-agency approach.
- Religious and community leaders.
- Working and reaching out to families.
- Advocacy – NGO/agency.
- Training all professionals.
- As part of core-curriculum for all.
- Legal framework.
- DoH and Health services.



# The African Well Woman's Clinic



- The clinic provides support, information and advice to women/girls who have undergone Female Genital Mutilation. **We also provide a one stop clinic for surgical reversal of FGM.**
- For more information and referrals please call **Comfort Momoh FGM Specialist** on **02071886872** or **07956542576** or page her on **08700555500 (Code:881018)**  
[comfort.momoh@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:comfort.momoh@gstt.nhs.uk)
- Also provide training, conference and seminars for all professionals world-wide



# Statement Opposing FGM

- In November 2012 HM Government launched a one year pilot of the cross government declaration against FGM.
- ‘Health Passport’ a pocket-sized and it states the law and the potential criminal penalties that can be used against those allowing FGM to take place-pilot for a year



**BE THE CHANGE YOU  
WANT TO SEE IN  
THE WORLD  
THANK YOU**



# female genital mutilation of young girls

is  
child abuse

It is illegal to practise FGM in the UK or to take girls out of the UK for FGM. There is a 14 year prison sentence for anyone performing, arranging or assisting FGM.

No religious doctrine supports FGM. It is a grave human rights violation with serious long term health consequences.

Be informed, be aware, and be ready to flag a concern.

**SAY NO TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**

Don't let it damage another generation.

[www.fco.gov.uk/fgm](http://www.fco.gov.uk/fgm)



Home Office



department for children, schools and families

She can't stop them  
from mutilating her body

But we can  
protect our  
daughters & sisters

## SAY NO TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Female Genital Mutilation is child abuse and a grave human rights violation which can have serious health and psychological consequences.

Over 20,000 girls and young women under 15 are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation in the UK.

It is illegal to practice Female Genital Mutilation in the UK

It is illegal to take girls abroad from the UK for Female Genital Mutilation whether or not it is lawful elsewhere.

There is a 14 year prison sentence for anyone performing, arranging or assisting Female Genital Mutilation.

For confidential help and advice  
Telephone FORWARD on:  
**020 8960 4000**  
[www.forwarduk.org.uk](http://www.forwarduk.org.uk)

Metropolitan Police Service  
Child Abuse Investigation Command  
Project Azure Information Line:  
**020 7161 2888**

You can call Crimestoppers  
anonymously on  
**0800 555 111**  
Crimestoppers is an independent charity

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