

FORWARD

FORWARD'S UK COMMUNITY PROGRAMME ADDRESSING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM) IN THE UK



WHAT WE OFFER

FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research & Development) is the leading African women led organisation working on female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage and maternal health in the UK and Africa. For over 30 years we have been committed to safeguarding the rights and dignity of African girls and women.

Our Vision: A world where women and girls live in dignity, are healthy, have choices and equal opportunities”

We believe that changing the attitudes, values and behaviours of FGM affected communities is the most effective way of creating positive and permanent social change. Our community programme is designed to empower girls, women and men to say no to FGM. We enable community members to act as leaders and advocates in their own communities to safeguard girls from harmful traditional practices including FGM.

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What community services does FORWARD provide?

FORWARD engages with local communities in dynamic ways to raise awareness about FGM and the support services available. Our outreach takes place at public events, community spaces, schools and places of worship.

Information Stalls - At local events, conferences or community settings to provide information and to raise awareness of FGM and services available.

Coffee Mornings - A monthly support group is held in our office for women to come together and have conversations about FGM and other issues that may be difficult to talk about otherwise. FORWARD can also help run coffee mornings on FGM in your community organisation.

Parent Sessions - Advice and information sessions for parents in a school or community setting. This can be in the form of a workshop, distribution of leaflets or discussions. These sessions run alongside our Schools Programme work with teaching staff and students.

Resources - User friendly leaflets, booklets and posters about FGM and services are available for public distribution.



Health and Wellbeing Training

We train members from FGM affected communities to understand the effects of FGM and the current laws in the UK. The training also empowers them to have the confidence, knowledge and basic counselling skills to facilitate workshops and challenge attitudes on FGM in their communities. Trainees finish the course as FORWARD Community Champions and Community Health Advocates who become involved in every aspect of our community work.

Community Champions and Community Health Advocates are some of our most valuable volunteers.

Currently FORWARD has a network of national community champions from London, Bristol, Birmingham and Manchester.

What Support and Advice Services does FORWARD provide?

FORWARD provide support and advice over the phone or on an outreach basis in existing services such as GP surgeries, health centres and libraries. We take referrals from statutory and voluntary agencies or individuals affected by FGM.

Referrals from social services and other agencies with concerns around a woman or girl at risk of FGM - we provide:

- Advice on correct procedures and actions according to the latest regulations
- One to one psychosocial and educational sessions
- Complete referrals to social services and case follow-up
- Provide information and/or awareness raising sessions for professionals including midwives, health visitors, GPs, medical professionals and school staff, to support staff to identify girls at risk of FGM and provide them with contact details for referrals

Women and girls who have experienced FGM - we can provide:

- One to one emotional support
- Group support
- Help accessing FGM specialist clinics including accompaniment and translation (Arabic, Somali, Amharic, or French etc.)
- Help accessing counselling and other relevant services

FORWARD has provided advice and support to over 438 women and girls affected by FGM since 2014.

Support Sessions - We also have funding to provide free support sessions to residents in the following boroughs: Barking & Dagenham, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Croydon, Greenwich, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Havering, Islington, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Richmond upon Thames, Wandsworth, and Westminster. We can offer one off advice and support to residents from other boroughs.

How do I access FORWARD's Community Services?

We provide our community services across London and the rest of the UK on an outreach basis and on request. For more information please call the FORWARD main number.

We also give advice and support over the phone. Our support staff are available Monday - Friday during office hours and can speak Arabic, Somali and Swahili. You can also be referred by your GP, local authority or other related organisations.

Our support service is confidential and we do not share information with other agencies without your permission. If you would like to speak to one of our support staff please call 07834168141 or email support@forwarduk.org.uk.

If you suspect that a girl is at risk of FGM and need urgent help you should call the NSPCC FGM helpline on 0800 028 3550.



Contact



FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development)

www.forwarduk.org.uk
forward@forwarduk.org.uk
020 8960 4000



Care for Women and Girls (CAWAG), Birmingham

www.careforwomenandgirls.org
sarata@kawag.org
07877 251789



New Step for African Community (NESTAC), Manchester

www.nestac.org
info@nestac.org.uk
01706 868993



Refugee Women of Bristol, Bristol

www.refugeewomenofbristol.org.uk
info@refugeewomenofbristol.org.uk
0117 9415867



NSPCC

FGM Helpline for support and advice
fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

0800 028 3550 (Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)



Childline

For support and advice

0800 1111 (Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)



Police

For reporting when you know a girl is at risk of FGM

101 (Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

FORWARD

Address:

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Twitter: @FORWARDUK and @FOWARD_Youth

Facebook: FORWARDUK and Young People Speak Out Against FGM_FORWARD UK

FORWARD is a UK registered charity.

Charity Registration number: 292403 Company Number: 01921508

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The logo for London Councils, featuring the words "LONDON" and "COUNCILS" stacked vertically in a bold, sans-serif font. A stylized blue swoosh underline is positioned beneath the word "COUNCILS".