

AHUR HIRI BOLOKOLI
SUM SUNNA MEKHNISHAB
ALAYS PHARAONIC
FEMALE
GUDNI
KUTAIRI
EXCISION
BONDO
OKOLI
ISA ARU
MEGREZ
GODOB
GENITAL
MEGREZ
EXCISIO
ISA ARU
MEKHN
GUT
KUTA
HALALAYS
YANKAN GISHIRI
MUTILATION
FEMALE CIRCUMCISION

Whatever you call it, FGM is harmful
and illegal in the UK



London Borough
of Hounslow

FORWARD
Safeguarding rights & dignity

What is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?

Female genital mutilation (FGM), or female circumcision as it is commonly known, refers to any procedure that involves the partial or total removal of the external female genitals or injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

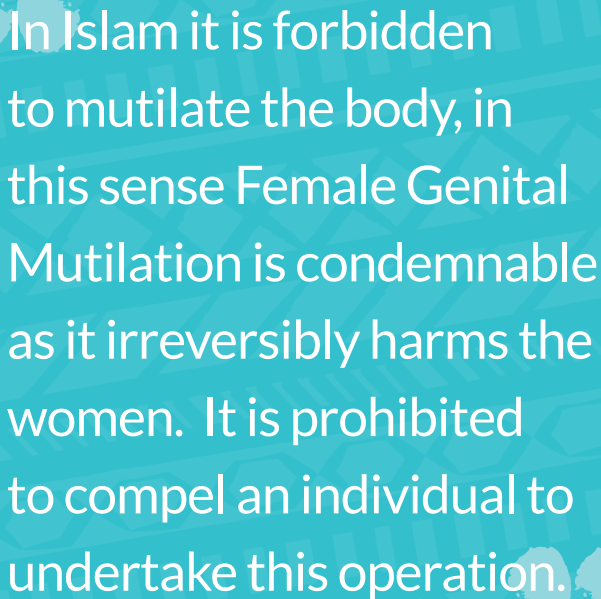
FGM is practised in 29 countries in Africa, some parts of the Middle East, Asia and South America. Globally, around 125 million women and girls have undergone FGM. In the UK, 137,000 women and girls have already undergone FGM and around 60,000 girls are at risk. All forms of FGM are considered child abuse and violate the human rights of girls and women.

FGM and the law

FGM is illegal in the UK. Under the Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003) and the Serious Crime Act (2015) it is against the law to:

- Practice FGM in the UK
- Take British nationals, permanent or habitual residents abroad to carry out FGM
- Assist with, make arrangements for or advise someone to carry out FGM

A person convicted of FGM under the Act will face up to 14 years imprisonment, a fine, or both.



In Islam it is forbidden to mutilate the body, in this sense Female Genital Mutilation is condemnable as it irreversibly harms the women. It is prohibited to compel an individual to undertake this operation.

Imam Aby Sayeed, Chairman of
the Islamic Shari'a Council

FGM and Religion

FGM is not required by any religion. There is no evidence in any religious text that allows FGM to take place on girls and women.

The Islamic Sharia Council, the Muslim college and the Muslim Council of Britain have condemned FGM within the Muslim community.

Health consequences of FGM

FGM has no health benefits and can cause physical, sexual and psychological harm including:

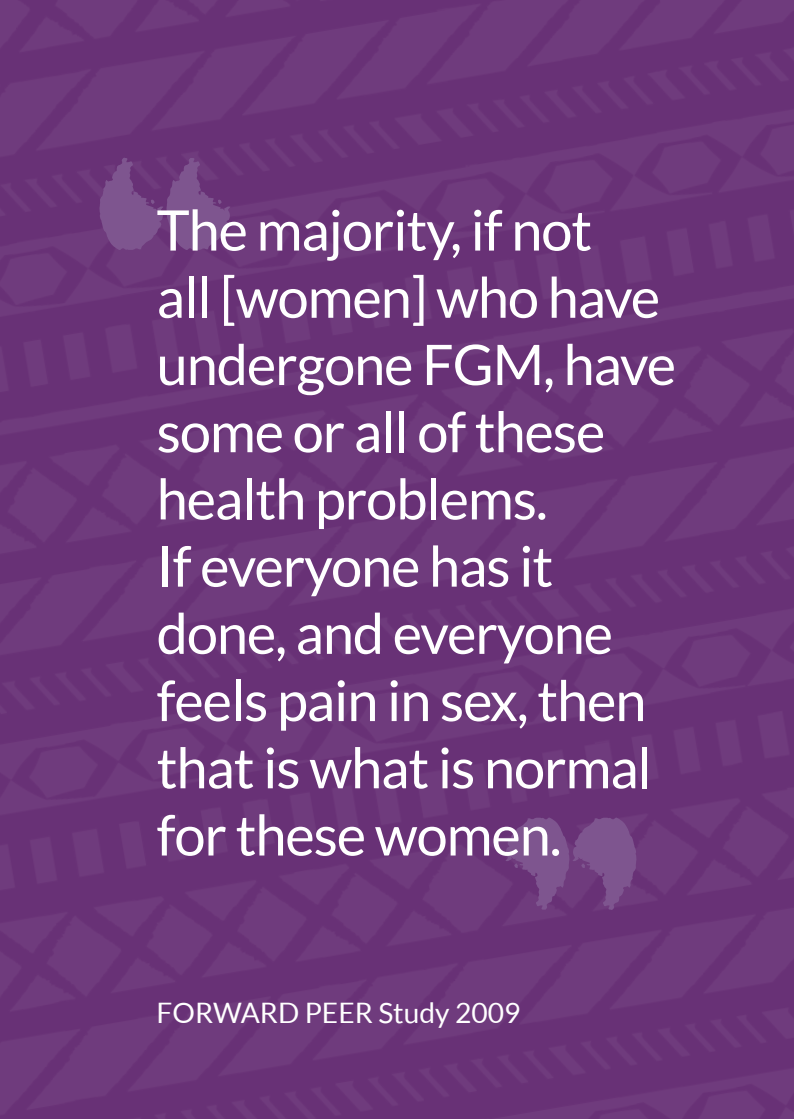
Short term complications

- Severe blood loss, pain, shock and infections

Long term complications:

- Difficulty in passing urine
- Complications during pregnancy or child birth
- Difficult or painful sex
- Urinary tract infections
- Painful and prolonged periods
- Infertility
- Obstetric fistula
- Psychological health issues such as depression, flash backs or low self-esteem.

It can also lead to death due to blood loss.



The majority, if not all [women] who have undergone FGM, have some or all of these health problems. If everyone has it done, and everyone feels pain in sex, then that is what is normal for these women.

Ending FGM Together

Protecting girls from FGM is everyone's responsibility. If you have reasons to think a girl is at risk of FGM you must take action and report it immediately.

Reporting to the Police - If you are worried a girl is at risk, call the Police on 101 for help. Turn to the support and advice page for other information.

Parents and carers - If you are a parent, guardian or someone who is acting as a parent of a child under 16 at risk of FGM and do not take action to protect them you can be prosecuted or fined for 'failure to protect'.

FGM Protection Orders - Anyone from a girl at risk, family member or a professional can request a protection order to protect a girl at risk of FGM. This can be done anonymously and is a free service. For example, a person can be forced to hand over their passport to the court or return a girl to the UK if she is thought to be at risk of FGM abroad.

Visit www.gov.uk/female-genital-mutilation-protection-order for more information.

Mandatory reporting and recording must be undertaken for any known cases of FGM. Teachers, social workers and health professionals, like nurses and GPs, must legally report and record all known cases of FGM to the police for girls under the age of 18. Known FGM cases are when a girl discloses that she has undergone FGM or when the professional sees that the girl has undergone FGM.

Mandatory recording - In addition to mandatory reporting, health professionals also have a duty to make a record when an NHS patient is identified as having undergone FGM. This is for data collection and the data is confidential.

If you want more information about how to protect a girl at risk of FGM, or about how the law affects you, contact FORWARD.

Early Help Hounslow (EHH) is a borough service for members of the public and professionals that provide information, advice and guidance about FGM services.

Call 020 8583 6600 and select option 1

Email: earlyhelp@hounslow.gov.uk

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

Call freephone 0800 028 3550. Lines open 24-hours.

Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

ChildLine 24 hour free helpline for children.

Call 0800 1111



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Support and advice

If you have been affected by FGM and need support you can contact **FORWARD** (details below) or speak to your doctor, health visitor, nurse or midwife.

FORWARD is an anti-FGM organisation providing support for girls and women at risk of, or affected by FGM. Contact them for advice or to volunteer as a Community Champion to help support their work to end FGM.

Call 020 8960 4000 and select option 1
Website: www.forwarduk.org.uk

Acton African Well Women Centre: provides specialist health services for girls and women affected by FGM.

Call 020 8383 8761 / 07956 001 065
to make an appointment.

**Drop in to Acton Health Centre London, 35-61 Church Road,
Acton, W3 8QE**