# Saadye Ali

PhD Student,RGN,Youth programme assistant-Forward.

**FORWARDUK** 





# Refugee Women of Bristol

Refugee Women of Bristol was established in February 2003 by a group of women from refugee backgrounds who wanted to create a safe, informal space where women could meet each other and access information and support. It now supports around three hundred women a year from around twenty-eight different countries of origin.



#### **Our Aims**

- a) Give refugee and asylum seeking women improved access to information about services and improved life chances through access to good quality information, signposting and advice
- b) Raise the educational and economic status of refugee and asylum seeking women
- c) Provide access to English language learning, volunteering and training opportunities

Refugee Women of Bristol is a registered charity



#### What we do

- Part of the FGM multiagency training in Bristol
- Host regular community radio talk shows on FGM
- Advocacy and outreach activities undertaken by Community Health Advocates



# Bridging the gap with communities

- Multi agency collaboration- Training of professionals
- Engaging schools- Parent sessions
- Police- Supporting families with case work
- Social services and health- providing interpreting and sign posting.

## Youth to youth activism

- FGM Interactive Teaching Resource and Fact-file
- Provide peer training in schools
- Organise conferences
- Organise summer events including march
- Empower other young advocates for change
- Engage at national level



### March:2011-2016



## Community advocates

#### **Women's empowerment**

- Training
- One to one FGM support
- Group support
- Parent groups
- Coffee mornings
- Workshops
- Friendship and sense of belonging



# FGM Training in schools





Dear Head Teacher,

Re: Bristol Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Summer Campaign 2016

Girls in your school may be at risk of being forced to undergo FGM and the risk is higher during the summer holidays.





# Teacher training

- Schools are in a unique position – they see the child for the majority of the time of the day.
- Teachers and pastoral workers are often the first point of contact for children, young people and their families.
- Schools are in an ideal position for positive early intervention work for more vulnerable students.



# Safeguarding is Everyone's business

