

# FGM SURVEY INSIGHTS

## PUBLIC AWARENESS ON FGM AND SUPPORT SERVICES

### Background

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) remains a critical safeguarding, public health, and human rights concern in the United Kingdom.

Despite decades of legislative process and the introduction of robust protective measures, including the criminalisation of FGM and the availability of FGM Protection Orders, evidence suggests significant gaps persist in public understanding, service accessibility, and community engagement.

To better understand current levels of awareness and the lived realities surrounding FGM, FORWARD conducted the *Public Awareness on FGM and Support Services survey* between December 2025 - January 2026.

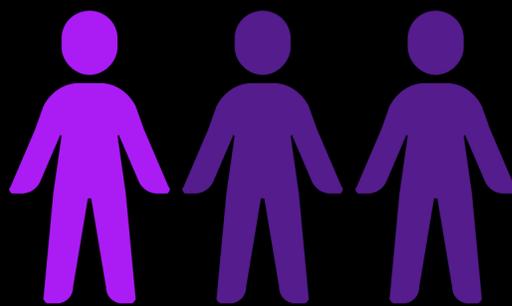
### Overview

The survey gathered responses from over 200 individuals across all the UK regions, representing diverse backgrounds includ-

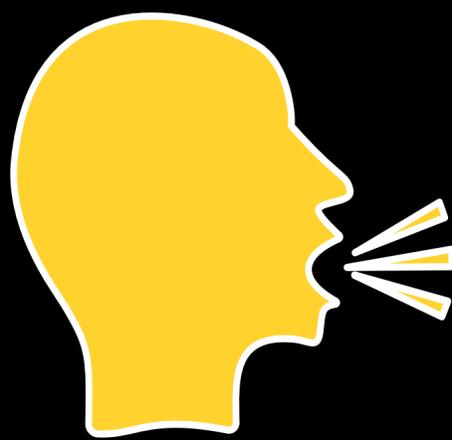
# 95%



of people recognise FGM as violence



3 in 1 people do not know how to access FGM specialist services



Majority of respondents agree that speaking openly about FGM protects girls

### CONTACT



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ing age groups and professional sectors. While awareness of the illegality of FGM was high, with 96% respondents recognising FGM as a criminal offence, the findings also revealed uneven levels of understanding about the practice, inconsistent knowledge of support services, and widespread uncertainty about how safeguarding mechanisms operate.

Only half of the respondents knew how to access specialist services, and many highlighted barriers such as stigma, cultural pressure, fear of judgement, distrust of professionals, and concerns about child protection involvement.

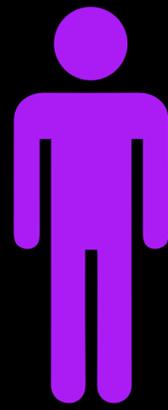
## Summary

The findings illustrate a clear gap between the legal framework and the experiences of survivors, families, and communities. They also highlight the essential but often under-resourced role of community organisations in building trust, raising awareness and supporting disclosure.

## Contact Us - Support Services

**Call us:** 0208 960 4000

**Email us:** [support@forwarduk.org.uk](mailto:support@forwarduk.org.uk)



Men are part of the solution

**90%**



of respondents agree that speaking openly about FGM protects girls



Are the biggest barriers to support

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