FORWARD UK

Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development

The State of FGM in the UK

Online Event – Tuesday 10th of November 2026

Background

Over a decade has passed since the introduction of major legislative and policy reforms aimed at preventing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK, including the Mandatory Reporting Duty, FGM Protection Orders, and enhanced safeguarding measures. During this period, the UK has developed one of the most comprehensive legal and data-collection frameworks for FGM globally. However, significant questions remain regarding how effectively these mechanisms are working in practice and whether they are translating into meaningful protection, support, and improved outcomes for women and girls affected by FGM.

FORWARD's forthcoming *State of FGM in the UK* report provides a comprehensive review of the UK's FGM response. Drawing on national datasets, Freedom of Information requests, parliamentary evidence, community experiences, and international comparisons, the report examines the state of policy implementation, safeguarding pathways, service provision, funding, and holistic survivor support. The report highlights critical issues, including fragmented data systems, limited visibility of what happens after mandatory reports are made, inconsistencies in safeguarding responses, inadequate access to specialist services, and growing concerns regarding insufficient political attention and investment. At the same time, it demonstrates the value of the UK's extensive data infrastructure and the essential role of community-led organisations in prevention, advocacy, and survivor support.

This online launch event will gather policymakers, academics, healthcare professionals, frontline practitioners, community leaders, researchers, and civil society organisations to discuss the report's findings and recommendations. The event aims to strengthen understanding of the realities of FGM in the UK today, stimulate discussion on policy and practice improvements, and revive national momentum towards ending FGM and improving support for survivors.

Objectives

- Present and formally launch FORWARD's *State of FGM in the UK* report.
- Explore lessons learned over the past decade of UK FGM policy implementation, as well as improve understanding of the realities of FGM in the UK and the current response.
- Provide an overview of key UK FGM datasets, what they capture, and their limitations.
- Facilitate dialogue between policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and affected communities for renewed political commitment and action on FGM.
- Discuss priority recommendations on data quality, safeguarding pathways, accountability, and survivor support for future advocacy, research, and policy development.

Agenda

Time	Session	Speaker
14:00 - 14:10	Welcome and Opening Remarks	**Naana Otoo-Oyortey MBE** | Executive Director, FORWARD
14:10 - 14:20	Why the State of FGM in the UK Matters Now	**Olivia Bailey MP** | Women and Equalities Committee Chair
14:20 - 14:35	Presentation of Key Findings from the State of FGM in the UK Report	**Fatima Awil** | Senior Partnership & Advocacy Officer, FORWARD
14:35 - 15:20	Panel Discussion: What Needs to Change?	▪ **Andrea Simon** | Victims' Commissioner for London ▪ **Eshraga El-shaikh** | Casework Coordinator, FORWARD ▪ **Professor Sohier Elneil** | University College London (UCL) ▪ **Dr Ingrid Franklin** | GP Partner, The Bristol Community Rose Clinic
15:20 - 15:45	Audience Q&A	Moderated by FORWARD
15:45 - 15:55	Home Office Perspective	**Daniel Ukandu** | 'Honour'-Based Abuse Senior Policy Advisor, VAWG Policy Team, Interpersonal Abuse Unit
15:55 - 16:00	Next Steps and Closing Remarks	**Naana Otoo-Oyortey MBE** | Executive Director, FORWARD