

FGM

What is FGM, why does it happen and where is it practiced?

Is a procedure with NO medical reasons. This practice involves the female genitals being deliberately injured or changed.

It is usually arranged by the girl's parents or family because they believe it:

- Preserves tradition
- Clean
- Prepares for marriage
- Protects family honour
- Is an act of love and not cruelty
- Will protect girls from being raped
- Keeps girls in education.

Legislation for England and Wales 'The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003' sets out the law surrounding FGM. And 'Multi-Agency statutory guidance on Female Genital Mutilation 2016.'

The World Health Organisation estimates that, in Africa 3 million girls experience some form of FGM each year.

The NSPCC estimates that there are 137,000 woman and girls affected by FGM in England and Wales.

There are 4 types of FGM

Type 1 - Clitoridectomy

This is when the clitoris is removed, either all or part of it, or there is just a symbolic prick.

Type 2 - Excision

This is the same as Type 1 but includes thin inner labia (lips around the vagina) being removed too. Sometimes the outer labia (outer lips of the vagina) are removed also.

Type 3 - Infibulation

This is when the vaginal opening is made smaller by cutting and reshaping.

Type 4

This includes all other procedures to the female genitalia which are non medical, for example, piercing, cauterising, incising.

It occurs in 28 African Countries, Asia and the Middle East. It is also practiced in migrant communities in the UK.

Warning Signs/Indicators:

- Child talks about special ceremony at home/abroad
- Awareness of a community practicing FGM
- Child has difficulty going to the toilet
- Is complaining of pain in that area.

What to do: Be sensitive when talking to child, use TED method.

Recognise, respond and refer to police immediately.

Effects of FGM:

- Depression and anxiety
- Bleeding
- Abscesses and cysts
- Inability to have sex and infertility or child birth problems
- Pain
- Mental health
- Death

Treatment:

Deinfibulation. It is a surgery to open the vagina, also known as reversal. It is offered to woman who are pregnant difficulty passing

On 31/10/15 a mandatory duty was put in place which requires professionals to report 'known' cases of FGM to the police.

Contact:

The Police: 999

NSPCC: 0800 028 3550

Home Office FGM Unit:

fgmenquires@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Committing FGM can result in up to 14 years imprisonment.

Anyone found guilty of Not protecting a female from risk of FGM be imprisoned for up to 7 year and/ore receive a fine.

The aim is to identify those at risk and respond. Identity those who have experienced FGM and help to PREVENT and STOP FGM