

What is female genital mutilation (FGM)?

FGM (also known as female genital cutting or circumcision) includes any procedure which involves the partial or total removal or injury to the external female genital organs for non medical reasons.

FGM and religion

- FGM is not part of any religion
- Girls from a variety of religious backgrounds are affected as this is a social custom
- Neither the Bible or the Qur'an say that FGM should be carried out
- Some people believe that it is part of a religion but this false
- FGM takes place in communities across the world, including the UK

Health problems from FGM

- Severe pain and shock
- Repeated urine infections and difficulty going to the toilet
- Difficulty menstruating and infertility
- Psychological problems
- Difficult sexual relations
- Problems in labour, putting mother and babies lives at risk

These health problems can all be prevented and are unnecessary

FGM and the law

All types of FGM have been illegal in the UK since 1985. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 makes it:

- Illegal to perform FGM in the UK
- Illegal to assist a girl to mutilate her own genitalia
- Illegal to take girls abroad for FGM whether or not it is lawful in that country
- Illegal to arrange, assist, or conceal any of the above

An offence under this act has a maximum penalty of up to 14 years in prison and/or a fine.

Under Section 72 of The Serious Crime Act 2015 it is now an offence to fail to protect a girl from risk of genital mutilation.

This means that if an act of FGM is committed against a girl under the age of 16, each person who is responsible for the girl at the time FGM occurred will be liable to prosecution.

The penalty is up to 7 years imprisonment.

All victims of FGM are now also entitled to lifelong anonymity, which means that the media are unable to print any names or details that might identify the victim.

It doesn't matter if the girl or woman agrees to have FGM - it is against the law.

Useful contacts and support:

*There is support available for you.
Together we can all help to end FGM*

West Midlands Police - For help, support and guidance call 101
In case of an emergency call 999

Crimestoppers - Call 0800 555 111 to report any information
anonymously

NSPCC FGM Free 24hour Helpline - if you need support or would
like to talk about your concerns: 0800 028 3550
fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

FORWARD UK - www.forwarduk.org.uk

African Well Women's Clinic - Birmingham Heartlands Hospital
07817 534274

Celestine Celest Community Organisation - www.celestinecelest.org
07517 227911

Allies Network - www.allies-network.com 07506 398865

Care for Women and Girls - sjidibba@yahoo.com 07799 909523

Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid - www.bswaid.org
0808 800 0028

Bloomsbury Nursery School & Childrens Centre -
0121 464 2034

Muslim Women's Network - www.mwnuk.co.uk 0121 236 9000

CRASAC (Coventry counselling service) - www.crasac.org.uk
02476 277777



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Information and Help