

GEMA

Gwent Police Ethnic Minority Association Cymdeithas Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig Heddlu Gwent

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (*World Health Organisation*))



It is a procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed, but where there's no medical reason for this to be done. There are no health benefits to FGM. The procedure is very painful and can seriously harm women and girls. The harm caused in the longer-term includes problems with sex, childbirth and mental health.

It is not an Islamic practice and UNICEF and women worldwide view it as a violation of girls' and women's human rights.

FGM is usually carried out on young girls between infancy and the age of 15, most commonly before puberty starts. It is illegal in the UK and the Home Affairs Committee and others have described it as child abuse. FGM is illegal in the UK and it is also illegal for UK nationals or permanent residents to perform FGM abroad. (*NHS Choices & UNICEF*)

"...everyone involved in protecting children must be made aware of, and prevent, female genital mutilation (FGM), a form of child abuse." Home Affairs Committee

Concerned? Please contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or the FGM Helpline on 0800 028 3550

Read about Evelyne



Watch: Needlecraft - a short animated film



FGM: Getting help and support

All women and girls have the right to control what happens to their bodies and the right to say no to FGM.

Help is available if you've had FGM or you're worried that you or someone you know is at risk.

- **If someone is in immediate danger**, contact the police immediately by dialling 999.

If you're concerned that someone may be at risk, contact the NSPCC helpline on 0800 028 3550 or fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk.

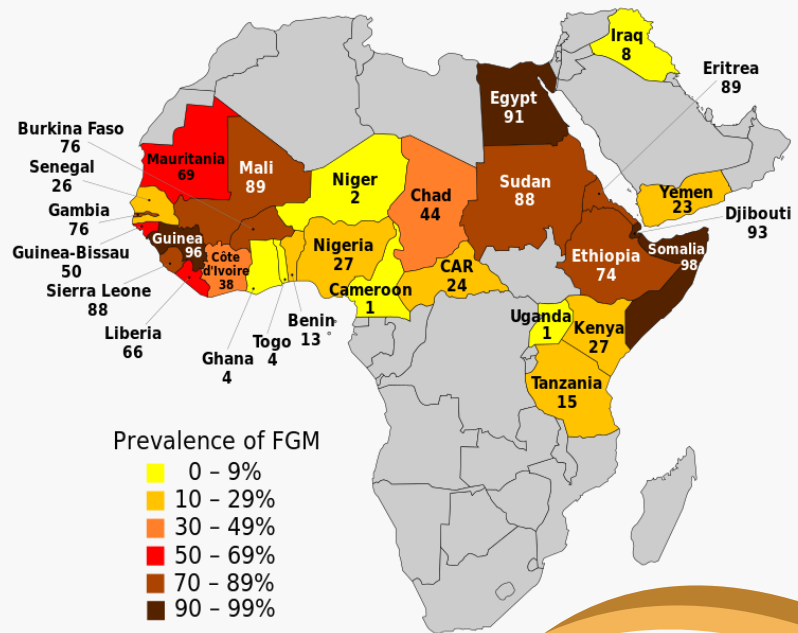
- **If you're under pressure to have FGM performed on your daughter**, ask your GP, health visitor or other healthcare professional for help, or contact the NSPCC helpline.
- **If you've had FGM**, you can get help from a specialist NHS gynaecologist or FGM service – ask your GP, midwife or any other healthcare professional about services in your area.

Communities at particular risk of FGM in the UK originate from:

- Egypt
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Guinea
- Indonesia
- Ivory Coast
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Yemen

"Prevalence of FGM/C". UNICEF.

Graphic: Unicef, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: a statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change, July 2013, page 26



References

Female genital mutilation (FGM)(NHS Choices) - <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/female-genital-mutilation/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Useful Flowchart for reporting FGM - https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/472691/FGM_guidance.pdf

Home Affairs Committee, Female Genital Mutilation inquiry - <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry8/>

Prevalence of FGM/C, UNICEF. - <http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/fgmc.html>

Free Online Course: Recognising and Preventing FGM - <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/resources/female-genital-mutilation-recognising-preventing-fgm-free-online-training/>

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