

Talking about FGM

Doctors and other healthcare professionals may ask questions to provide support and protection

- Have you been cut down there?
- Were you circumcised?
- Have you been closed?



FGM in pregnancy

It is important that pregnant women who have undergone FGM tell their midwife or doctor about this so that they can:

- Check if it will be safe to deliver the baby
- Arrange for some women to have a procedure mid-way through pregnancy to make it safe to deliver the baby

Summary

- FGM has **no health benefits**
- FGM may cause **lifelong health problems**
- FGM is **violence against women and children**
- FGM is **against the law**



Support

UCLH FGM Clinic uclh.nhs.uk | 020 3447 9411

Clinician and self-referral to fgmsupport@uclh.nhs.uk with further resources available online.

FORWARD www.forwarduk.org.uk | 020 8960 4000

Leading UK charity focused on safeguarding women's rights and promoting research.

NSPCC FGM Helpline www.nspcc.org.uk | 0800 028 3550

The UK's leading children's charity dedicated to end child abuse in all its forms.

UNDERSTANDING FGM

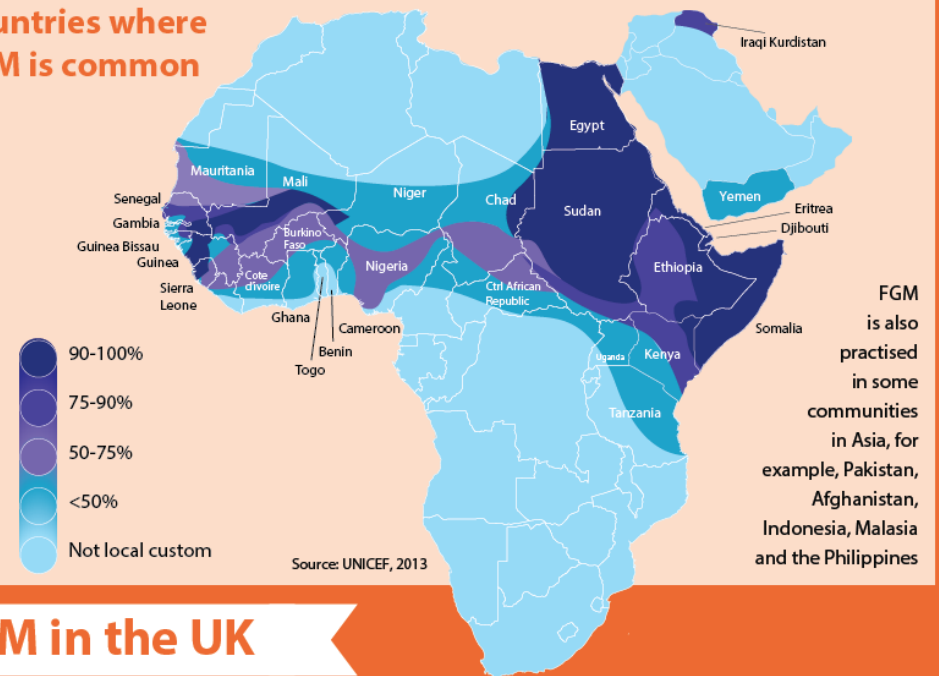
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) involves cutting or injuring the female genital organs for non-medical reasons



The cultural practice dates back to ancient times and is known by a number of different names:

- Ibi
- Tahoor
- Khitan
- Gudnii
- Sunna
- Halalays
- Bondo
- Absum
- Kutairi
- Cutting
- Circumcision
- Being closed

Countries where FGM is common



FGM in the UK

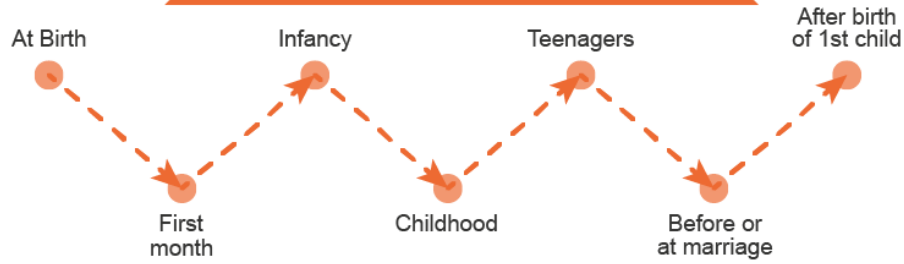


There are likely to be over 130,000 women in the UK who have undergone FGM



It has been estimated that over 20,000 girls in the UK are at risk of FGM each year

When is FGM performed?



Potential harmful effects

Immediate effects

Major bleeding
Death

Difficulty passing urine
Life-threatening infections



Life-long effects

Problems with periods
Problems with sex
Urinary problems
Psychological problems

Pain and infection
Scarring and cysts
Pregnancy complications
Infertility

FGM violates human rights

FGM **violates** the following human rights



The right to be free from
gender discrimination



The right to life and
physical integrity



The right to
health



The rights of
the child

FGM is a criminal offence

FGM is **illegal** and UK residents may be fined or go to **prison** for up to 14 years if they arrange for FGM to be performed on any girl or woman



Whether the procedure
occurs in the UK



Or in any country outside the UK,
even if the practice is legal in that country

Types of FGM

No FGM

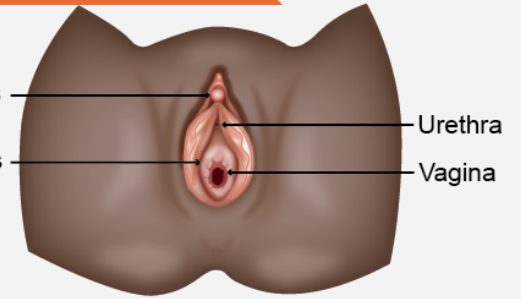
A girl/woman's genital area

Clitoris

Inner lips

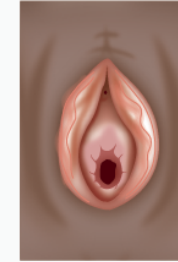
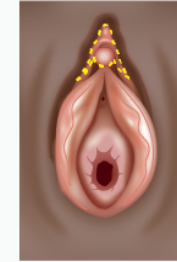
Urethra

Vagina



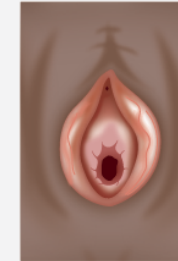
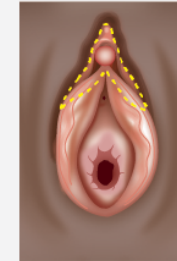
Type 1

Partial or total removal of
the clitoris and/or hood of
the clitoris



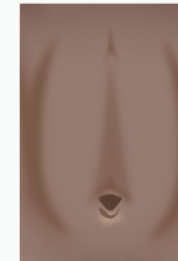
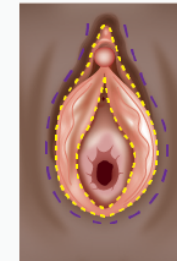
Type 2

Partial or total removal of
the clitoris and/or hood of
the clitoris with total or
partial removal of the inner
lips



Type 3

External genitals removed
with or without removal of
the clitoris, and the vaginal
opening stitched closed
(also known as infibulation)



Type 4

All other harmful
procedures, including
pricking, cutting or
burning the clitoris (1),
cutting or scarring the
vaginal opening (2), or
stretching the labia (3)

