

Safeguarding Reflection- FGM

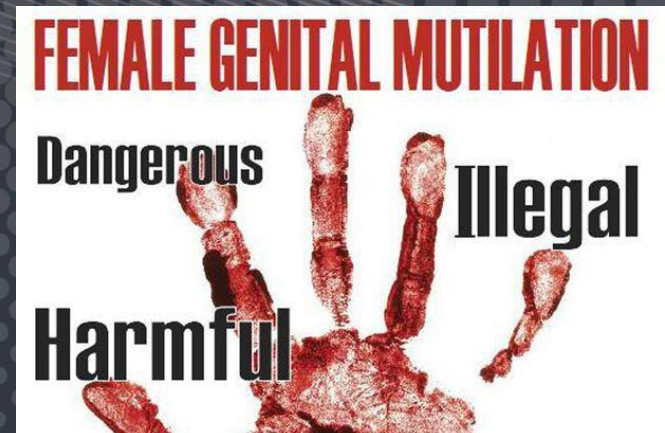
Definition

Female genital mutilation (FGM) 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**.

FGM is **illegal in the UK**. It is a practice that takes place worldwide in at least 28 African countries and in parts of the Middle and Far East

UK communities that are at risk of FGM include Somali, Kenyan, Ethiopian, Sierra Leonean, Sudanese, Egyptian, Nigerian, Eritrean, Yemeni, Kurdish and Indonesian women and girls.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/youtubers-use-fgm-cuts-to-help-raise-awareness-a7161996.html>



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female genital
mutilation
of young girls
is
child abuse



Complex issue

Many women and men from practising communities **consider it to be normal to protect their cultural identity.**

FGM is believed to be a way of ensuring virginity. It is used to safeguard girls from sex outside marriage and from having sexual feelings. It is most often claimed to be carried out in accordance with religious beliefs. FGM is not supported by any religious doctrine.

FGM in England and Wales

Estimated that **10,000 girls aged under 15** who have migrated to England and Wales are **likely to have undergone FGM**

London has the highest prevalence rate in England and Wales with an estimated 2.1% of women affected by FGM outside London, highest estimates were for Manchester, Slough, Bristol, Leicester and **Birmingham**

https://youtu.be/0D-ge_D8LhA

<https://youtu.be/kzBNTtR7toE>

Our Responsibility

- Schools have a duty of care; this includes ensuring that children view school as a safe retreat.
- Staff must make a DSL aware of any concerns regarding students' health and safety.
- All staff members have the responsibility to identify children at potential risk.
- Our focus on mental health and wellbeing

Mandatory reporting of FGM

Since 31 October 2015, regulated health and social care professionals and **teachers in England and Wales** have been legally required to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s, which they identify in the course of their professional work, **to the police**.