

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

What is FGM?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. FGM is also known as female circumcision or cutting.

There are 4 types of FGM:

- 1. Clitoridectomy**
- 2. Excision**
- 3. Infibulation**
- 4. Unclassified**

FGM ranges from removing or harming normal and healthy female genitalia to sealing up the genitalia and leaving a tiny hole for urinating and menstruation.

FGM is performed to controlling female sexual desires and increasing the likelihood of marriage.

Warning Signs

- Talks of long holidays during the school summer break.
- Mentions of a “special procedure” or celebrations were they “become a woman”.
- Other women in the family have been mutilated, this heightens the risk to other family members.

Identifying Victims

- Spending longer than normal time in the bathroom
- Frequent urinary and menstrual difficulties
- Difficulties walking, sitting or standing
- Being unable to sit still and looking uncomfortable

What to do if you suspect FGM is about to or has taken place?

FGM is child abuse and should immediately trigger safeguarding processes.

FGM has been against the law since 1985 and carries a maximum sentence of 14 years imprisonment.

It is a criminal offence to carry out or help FGM to take place.

FGM Protection orders can be obtained promptly to safeguard those at risk of FGM. There is no fee for these and in urgent cases, they can be granted within a short period of time.

FGM Support

NSPCC FGM Helpline **0800 028 3550**

Forward **0208 960 4000**

If at immediate risk, call the police on
999