

## 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](http://uclh.nhs.uk) | 020 3447 9411

Clinician and self-referral to [fgmsupport@uclh.nhs.uk](mailto:fgmsupport@uclh.nhs.uk) with further resources available online.

**FORWARD** [www.forwarduk.org.uk](http://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](http://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

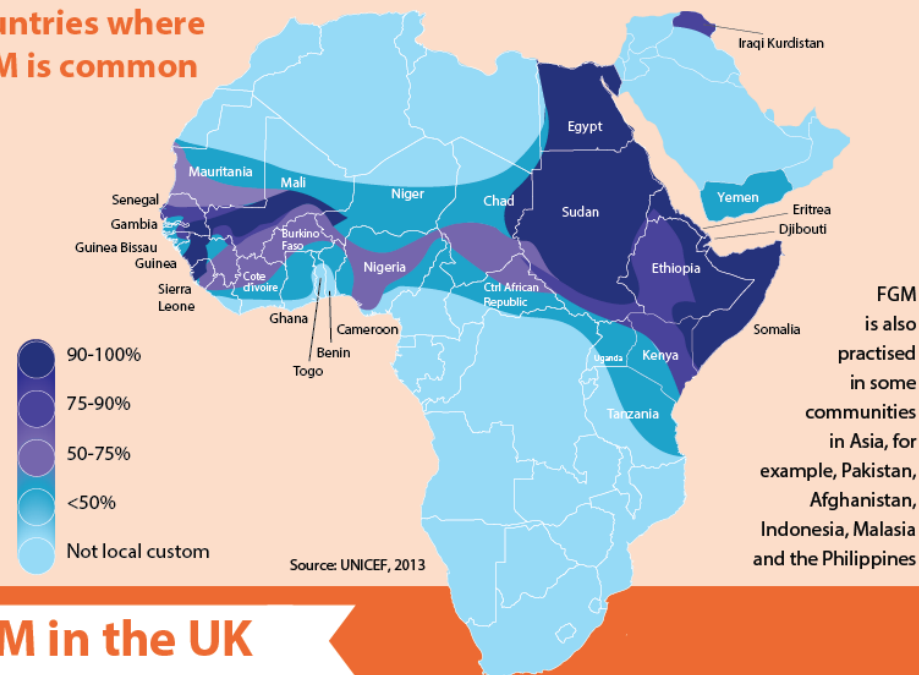
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) involves cutting or injuring the female genital organs for non-medical reasons



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

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

### Countries where FGM is common



## FGM in the UK

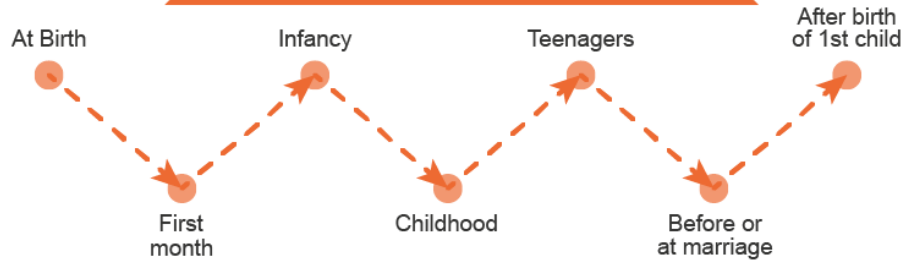


There are likely to be over 130,000 women in the UK who have undergone FGM



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

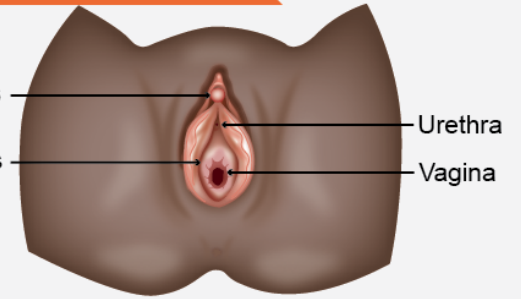
A girl/woman's genital area

Clitoris

Inner lips

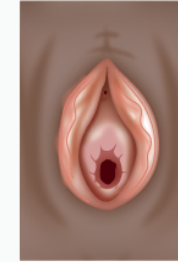
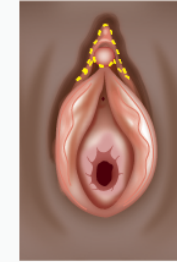
Urethra

Vagina



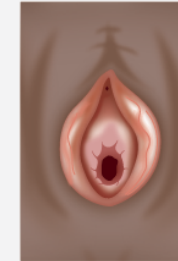
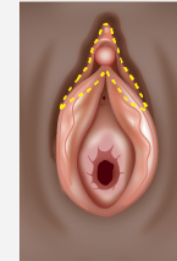
### Type 1

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



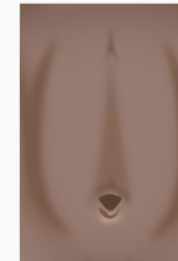
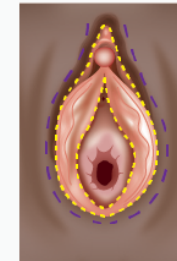
### Type 2

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)

