



Female Genital Mutilation

Please note, this is a sensitive topic that impacts many people. If you find that this has caused you any upset or distress, please stop and seek appropriate support or feel free to reach out to the Safeguarding team at safeguarding@qa.com



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

What is FGM?

Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision, is the partial or full cutting of a girl's clitoris and labia, for non-medical reasons. FGM is most often practised on girls (between infancy and 15 years of age) but can occur across the life course of girls and women – some girls being cut when they are born and some women experiencing it after marriage.

FGM/C IS GLOBAL

FGM/C is present in at least 92 countries around the world.



Source: FGM/C: A Call For A Global Response (2020) Equality News, End FGM EU Network, US End FGM/C Network

The procedure has severe physical, psychological, and social consequences for the rest of the girls' lives – and can cause complications and pain during pregnancy and childbirth; pain during sex; difficulties urinating or menstruating; incontinence; psychological problems and trauma. (For more information visit - [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\) | ActionAid UK](#)).

Signs that a girl could be at risk of FGM?

- The family indicate that there are strong levels of influence held by pro-FGM elders who are involved in bringing up female children.
- A girl/family has limited level of integration within UK community.
- A girl from a practising community is withdrawn from PSHE and/or Sex and Relationship Education or its equivalent may be at risk as a result of her parents wishing to keep her uninformed about her body, FGM and her rights.
- If there are references to FGM in conversation, for example a girl may tell other children about it.
- A girl may confide that she is to have a 'special procedure' or to attend a special occasion to 'become a woman'.
- A girl may request help from a teacher or another adult if she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk.
- Parents state that they or a relative will take the child out of the country for a prolonged period and are evasive about why.
- A girl is taken abroad to a country with high prevalence of FGM, especially during the summer holidays which is known as the 'cutting season'. (For more information visit - <http://nationalfamcentre.org.uk/fam/>).

Who to contact and how can they help?

If anyone (yourself, someone in your family or anyone you know) is at immediate risk of FGM call the police on 999.

For further help, the following services may be able to help you:

NSPCC: Free, dedicated FGM helpline



For those who are worried about a child potentially at risk of FGM (or at risk themselves) the NSPCC 24-hour anonymous helpline can provide support 0800 028 3550 or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk.

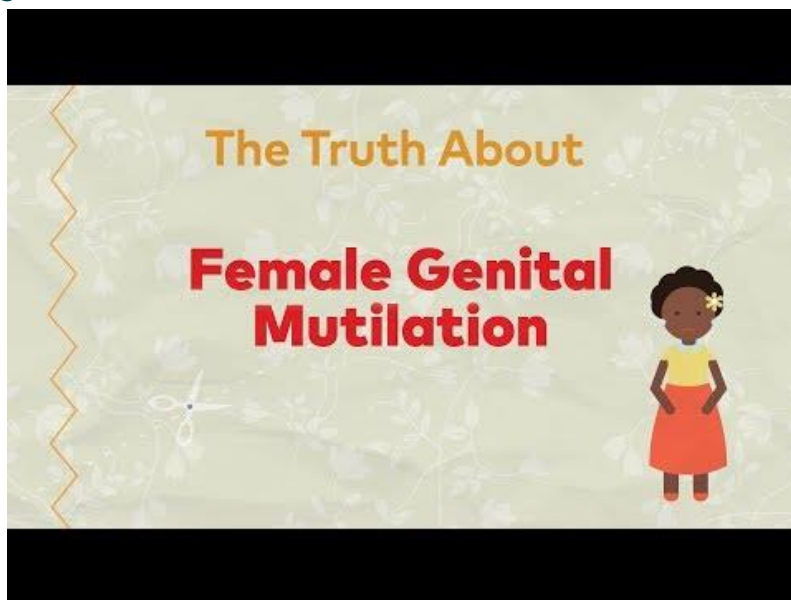
The Dahlia Project

The Dahlia Project is a specialist service for women and girls in the UK who have undergone FGM and provide therapeutic support groups.

National FGM Centre

Email: info@nationalfgmcentre.org.uk Phone Number: 0208 4987137

Activity - Video



Please watch the above video. This will provide you with further awareness and context to this learning. Questions related to this can be found below. If watching this video has caused you any upset or distress, please stop and seek appropriate support or feel free to reach out to the Safeguarding team at safeguarding@qa.com

Questions:

1. How old does a female have to be to become a victim of FGM?
2. What is FGM?
3. How can we prevent it?