



# Engaging Schools on Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage:

A GUIDE FOR EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

**CREATE Youth-Net**  
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**F**ORWARD  
*Safeguarding rights & dignity*

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This guide has been prepared by the CREATE Youth-Net partners, who all have vast experience in facilitating student sessions and engaging schools on female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. The guide is intended to be used by school staff and education professionals to engage on the issues of FGM and forced marriage. The guide provides basic information about both FGM and forced marriage; gives an overview about the importance of schools engaging on the issues; highlights some key principles and considerations; provides suggestions for effective schools engagement on the issues; and finally provides guidance on how to respond to and deal with disclosures.

# Contents

Female Genital Mutilation: The Basics .....	4
Forced Marriage: The Basics .....	6
Why schools need to engage on FGM and Forced Marriage .....	8
Principles for working in schools on FGM and Forced Marriage .....	10
Practical strategies for schools engagement .....	15
Responding to and dealing with disclosures .....	18
Additional support .....	22
CREATE Youth-Net .....	22
CREATE Youth-Net partners .....	23

# Female Genital Mutilation: The Basics

## What is FGM?

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) involves the partial or total removal or injury of a girl's external genitalia for non-medical reasons. FGM is usually practised on young girls (the average age is 5 – 8 years old). In most cases FGM is performed without sterilised medical equipment or anaesthetic by individuals who are not medically trained. There are four types of FGM that range from pricking or removing parts of the clitoris to removing the clitoris, inner and outer labia and sewing the labia together to close over the majority of the vaginal opening.

More than 125 million women have undergone FGM in 29 African countries and the Middle East. FGM is also found in other parts of the world including Asia and among migrant communities in Europe, Australia and North America. It is estimated that 500,000 women living in Europe have undergone FGM.

## What are the health complications of FGM?

FGM can result in physical and emotional health problems. Some of these health problems may last throughout a woman's life. Examples of health problems include: severe bleeding; difficulties passing urine or menstruation; complications in pregnancy or child birth; and psychological effects such as post-traumatic stress, anger and shame.

## Why is FGM practised?

There are many reasons given for the practice of FGM and families may give more than one reason for the practice. Some of the reasons include:

- To preserve cultural identity or maintain tradition
- To protect a girl's virginity, decrease her sexual desire, or prove she has not had sex before marriage
- To signal that a girl has become a woman
- Social expectations which include recognition, belonging and increasing marriage prospects
- Misinterpretation of religious beliefs
- Beauty or hygiene

## FGM and human rights

FGM is a serious human rights violation as it violates girls' and women's rights to: physical integrity; the highest attainable standard of health (including reproductive and sexual health); and freedom from physical/mental violence, injury or abuse. Further to this, FGM is a form of gender based violence as it is a practice that only happens to girls and women specifically because of their sex. FGM is used as a way to change and control the behaviour of girls and women. Finally, FGM is illegal and classed as a form of child abuse in many European countries.

# Forced Marriage: The Basics

## What is Forced Marriage?

Forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some adults with learning or physical disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage, and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. Forced marriages can happen everywhere due to migration; however it is mostly practised among communities that are from Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and some African countries.

There is very little data on the global extent of forced marriage. However, data on child marriages show that every year over 14 million girls are married before they reach the age of 18 years. In Europe there is very little data collected and the existing data on forced marriage is only based on reported cases.

## Why does Forced Marriage happen?

- To control unwanted behaviour and sexuality, and prevent 'unsuitable' relationships i.e. with people outside their ethnic, cultural, caste or religious group
- To protect perceived cultural or religious ideals
- Family 'honour' or long-standing family commitments
- Peer group or family pressure
- To ensure land, property and wealth remain in the family
- To strengthen family links
- To assist claims for residence and citizenship
- To provide a carer for a disabled family member / reduce the 'stigma' of disability

## Forced Marriage and human rights

Forced marriage is a serious human rights violation as it violates girls', boys', women's and men's rights to: freely choose a spouse; the highest attainable standard of health (including reproductive and sexual health); freedom from physical/mental violence, injury or abuse; freedom of expression; and right to education. The right to marry and choose whom you marry is a core and key human right that forced marriage violates. Further to this, forced marriage is a form of gender based violence as it is a practice that predominately happens to girls and women; and it is used as a way to modify, change and control the behaviour of girls and women.

Although very few countries in Europe have made forced marriage a specific criminal offence, several aspects related to forced marriage are covered under European law. In addition, many of the actions leading up to, or involved in a forced marriage are illegal, e.g. kidnapping or rape. European countries have an obligation to prevent and protect their citizens from forced marriage.

# Why schools need to engage on FGM and forced marriage

“ School and college staff are particularly important [in responding to child abuse and VAWG] as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children to prevent concerns from escalating. Schools and colleges and their staff form part of the wider safeguarding system for children. This system is described in statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013'.

*Keeping Children Safe in Education – Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges, Department of Education, 2014*

FGM and forced marriage are forms of child abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) therefore should be dealt with as part of existing child protection and safeguarding structures, policies and procedures.

There are 60,000 girls under the age of 15 who are at risk of FGM in the UK. This illegal practice is a form of child abuse, and is a growing concern in the UK. As such, it is essential that girls are not only protected from the practice, but also that girls who have undergone the practice are supported. Schools play a vital role in this.

In 2014 the Forced Marriage Unit (the UK Government's response to forced marriage) gave advice to 1,267 possible forced marriage cases. In 79% of the cases the victim was female. Forced marriage has recently been criminalized in the UK. However, girls, boys, young women and young men are still at risk of forced marriage in the UK. Young people need to be taught about forced marriage and their rights to ensure that they know how they can access support if they need it.

All professionals working with children and young people, including schools and education professionals, have a legal obligation (section 175 of the Education Act 2002; section 47 of the Children Act 1989) to safeguard children, promote their welfare and protect them from harm. Part of this responsibility includes taking action to enable all children to have the best possible outcomes.

VAWG is not acceptable and is not inevitable. The UK government strategy has identified prevention of VAWG as a priority. Schools play a critical role in prevention work on all forms of VAWG, including FGM and forced marriage, through challenging and preventing abuse by preventing abusive attitudes and behaviours from being developed and perpetuated.

Pupils who fear that they may be at risk of FGM or forced marriage may come to the attention of, or seek support from a teacher or other educational professionals before they seek help from the police or social services. Therefore schools and education professionals are ideally situated to raise awareness of the practice and also to safeguard and support girls. As FGM and forced marriage predominantly happens to minors, schools are also ideally placed to identify girls at risk or affected.

It is important that all young people learn about these human rights violations. It is essential that girls and young people are able to discuss the issues, know how and where to access support, and learn how they can help keep themselves and their peers safe.

“ *Educational establishments should aim to create an 'open environment' where pupils feel comfortable to discuss the problems that they are facing – an environment where FGM can be discussed openly, and support and counselling are provided routinely. Pupils need to know that they will be listened to and their concerns are taken seriously.*

*Multi-Agency Guidelines on Female Genital Mutilation 2014*

“ *Senior managers should ensure that their organisation has a lead person with overall responsibility for safeguarding children and protecting adults with support needs or victims of domestic abuse – where possible the same person should lead on forced marriage.*

*The Right To Choose – Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for dealing with Forced Marriage*

# Principles for working in schools on FGM and Forced Marriage

It is important that all work and activities on FGM and forced marriage is underpinned by a human rights based approach and that students are informed of their rights. It is essential that any FGM and forced marriage engagement in schools ensures that it is not compromising the dignity and human rights of young people who may be affected by the practices, or come from communities where the practices are prevalent.

“ FGM [and forced marriage] are sensitive, taboo and sometimes highly political and perceived religious issues ... insensitive approaches and implementation could risk driving the practice underground, undermining existing efforts to end the practices, contributing to a backlash, adding to other political conflict/tensions etc.

*Do No Harm Guidance – the Girl Generation 2014*

## **Do no harm: creating a safe space – culturally sensitive, avoiding stigmatisation and age appropriate**

- » Engagement on FGM and forced marriage should not cause harm, intentionally or otherwise. Harm can be caused when there is a limited understanding of the complexity and the sensitivities around the practices. This must be the guiding ethical principle underpinning community engagement and prevention work on these issues.
- » Teach and talk about FGM and forced marriage as if someone in the room is affected by it – student engagement should create a safe and understanding environment to encourage girls and young women to seek support if they need it.

- » FGM and forced marriage information must be provided in a way that is factual, non-judgmental, realistic and relevant, and which reinforces positive social norms – stick to neutral fact based statements. Avoid the use of judgmental and politically loaded terms like 'barbaric' and 'savage' in relation to the 'other' (FGM and forced marriage affected communities).
- » Engagement should not criticise, demonise, blame or stigmatise whole cultures and communities. It is essential that criticism should be targeted at the specific practices.
- » Avoid language, imagery or explicit methods (shock tactics) which may re-traumatise, re-victimise, or undermine the dignity of young people who are affected by the practices.
- » Fear about FGM and forced marriage should be minimised and worries responded to – ensuring that students, staff and parents understand the socio-cultural context surrounding these issues, and clearly place the practices in a human rights framework.
- » Avoid reinforcing and perpetuating stereotypes about communities and young people who are at risk of, or affected by FGM and forced marriage.
- » Sessions should either be delivered to all students or should be optional for all students. Sessions should not be delivered to selected students who the school decides might be at risk or affected, as this will further reinforce the idea that FGM and forced marriage are issues that only affect specific people and can lead to stigmatisation of girls and young women.
- » Avoid re-victimising girls and young women who are affected by the practice – create spaces that allow multiple personal experiences of FGM and forced marriage.
- » It is essential that signposting to support services and making support accessible is embedded into any engagement on FGM and forced marriage.
- » Ensure that information is appropriate for young people and tailor sessions depending on age group and previous learning about bodies, rights and sexual and reproductive health.

## Whole school approach

Schools should have a whole school approach to dealing with FGM and forced marriage. This approach should include:

- » A comprehensive safeguarding procedure that includes FGM and forced marriage.
- » Training for all staff – staff should be able to respond to disclosures.
- » Ensuring that the designated member of staff with responsibility for safeguarding children is well versed on the issues and is known to staff and students.
- » Identifying support organisations and creating safe one-to-one support spaces in the school for students.
- » Circulation and display of sensitive, age appropriate materials about FGM and forced marriage, including support services that students can access.
- » Working in partnership with and across the community – building relationships with parents, schools, community leaders, support services and women’s organisations.
- » Access support from external agencies that have expertise and current knowledge on engaging young people on FGM and forced marriage.

## Context: Gender based violence; Personal, Social and Health Education; Sex and Relationship Education; Citizenship

- » FGM and forced marriage should also be part of a school’s existing PSHE/SRE/ Citizenship curriculums. This is to ensure that students have a context in which to place FGM and forced marriage, and they are not seen as abstract, isolated, single sessions.
- » FGM and forced marriage engagement should be grounded in a gendered and human rights approach that promotes the rights of women and girls, men and boys, to safety, freedom of movement, dignity, sexual autonomy, bodily integrity, non-discrimination, education and equal participation in decision-making and society.

## Ground rules

- » Ensure that students understand that talking about FGM and forced marriage can be emotional and difficult – as are many sessions dealing with abuse and violence. However it is important to reassure students that the subject will be approached sensitively and appropriately.
- » Allow students the option of 'opting out' or 'taking five' if they feel that they need some time. Ensure that there is support available if any student needs it.
- » Model appropriate and sensitive behaviour, and reinforce the importance of students maintaining this behaviour. This behaviour should be one that is empathetic towards girls, women and young people who have undergone these practices.
- » Remind students about school's ground rules prior to any sessions on FGM and forced marriage. In particular, the limits to confidentiality should be explained to students at the beginning of every session.

## Practical set up and preparation

- » Engaging students on FGM or forced marriage in an assembly format is usually not effective. This is because students may not be comfortable to ask questions in a large group. Interactive activities where students are able to engage in discussion and question the topic tend to be more effective, therefore smaller group settings (class room size) are more effective.
- » It is important to have comprehensive staff training on FGM and forced marriage prior to engagement with students. Staff should be trained on how to safeguard girls including what to look out for and how to respond. Staff should be clear on their responsibilities, confident in acting on their concerns, proactively engaging with students, as well as dealing with disclosures sensitively and effectively.
- » Sufficient time should be allocated to ensure that the issues are covered adequately and students have the opportunity to ask questions and understand the issues.
- » Both mixed and single sex sessions should be made available to enable students' full participation. Both teachers and external facilitators should have a clear understanding of safeguarding policies and procedures.

## Engaging, empowering and involving young people

- » Take a positive approach which does not attempt to create shock or guilt, but focuses on what children and young people can do to keep themselves and others healthy and safe, and to lead happy and fulfilling lives.
- » Allow students the chance to think about values and influences (such as media, faith and culture) that shape their attitudes to FGM and forced marriage.
- » Start where children and young people are – find out what they already know, understand, are able to do and say.
- » Encourage young people to reflect on their learning and the progress they have made, and to transfer what they have learned to say and to do from one school subject to another, and from school to their lives in the wider community.
- » Provide a safe and supportive learning environment where children and young people can develop the confidence to ask questions, challenge the information they are offered, draw on their own experience, express their views and opinions, and put what they have learnt into practice in their own lives.
- » Facilitate the active participation of children and young people to take a role in ending FGM and forced marriage and stopping violence against women and girls.

# Practical strategies for schools engagement

## Staff training

This is essential prior to student engagement on FGM or forced marriage. Staff should ensure a safe and supportive environment following student engagement sessions. Staff training can be delivered in a variety of formats – whole or half day intensive training, twilight sessions after school, and briefings at regular meetings. FGM and forced marriage training can also be incorporated into child protection and safeguarding training that staff attend. Training should not only be focused on teaching staff, but also be delivered to support and administrative staff and governors. Staff training should include clear safeguarding pathways which incorporate and embed FGM and forced marriage. FGM and forced marriage information, particularly support services, should be accessible to staff.

Staff should be trained on: how to safeguard students, risk factors, how to respond and engage on FGM. Staff should be clear on their responsibilities and confident to respond to concerns and disclosures. Many FGM, forced marriage and VAWG organisations are able to offer tailored training for school staff. Reach out to them if you need support.

## Student awareness sessions

Students should be taught about FGM and forced marriage as these are issues that directly affect them. In addition, students should be provided opportunities to: take on further learning, conduct research and get involved with FGM and forced marriage campaigns. FGM and forced marriage can be taught as individual classes (embedded into a wider context) or can be incorporated into lessons that look at: citizenship, child and human rights, puberty and changes in the body.

Student awareness sessions are usually delivered at Secondary School – Year 7 (11 year olds) and there has been some work with Primary School students – Years 5 and 6 (9-10 year olds). However, it is important that sessions are age appropriate and tailored. Sessions should focus on providing key messages around FGM and forced marriage: understanding the practices, that they are human rights violations, they are harmful, and that there are places you can get support.

Sessions should be interactive, engaging in discussion, and empowering. There are many FGM and forced marriage organisations which have experience delivering student sessions on this sensitive subject if you need support or would like to invite an external facilitator.

## **Peer learning: student research projects and presentations, school campaigns and events**

Students should be encouraged to proactively take action on these issues, and often come up with creative and effective ways of reaching out to their peers. Examples of actions that students and schools can take are:

- » Selecting FGM or forced marriage as a special research project, writing an essay or an article about it.
- » Presenting to their classmates or parents about FGM and forced marriage.
- » Creating posters about FGM and forced marriage that can be displayed around the school.
- » Setting up a debate, developing a play or writing a rap about FGM or forced marriage.
- » Meeting an organisation that works on FGM or forced marriage with young people.
- » Organising an event on FGM and forced marriage.
- » Fundraising to support a project or organisation working on FGM or forced marriage e.g. bake sales, dress down days.

## **Outreach and support**

It is important that space is given for students that need extra support or need to talk about the issues further. It is best if specific support on FGM and forced marriage is embedded into already existing support frameworks in the school as the students may already be aware of and comfortable engaging with them. It is important that a professional who fully understands the issues and has experience of providing support delivers the outreach and support sessions. It is ideal if outreach and support is arranged prior to student awareness sessions so that it can be clearly signposted during sessions.

## Parent sessions and engagement

Parents' sessions and engagement are effective ways to ensure that messages about FGM and forced marriage are taken home. Like student sessions, these should not be targeted to specific families or communities. FGM and forced marriage are human rights issues and child protection and safeguarding concerns therefore they affect all parents. Engagement can include:

- » Letters home to explain why students are learning about FGM and forced marriage.
- » Coffee mornings and sessions with parents. It is essential that these are approached sensitively and factually. It may be important to consider having a translator or professional from some of the affected communities. Sessions can be approached as general safeguarding to ensure parents feel safe and comfortable to attend.

## FGM and Forced Marriage: information provision

FGM and forced marriage information should be clearly available throughout a school, especially resources that clearly signpost to support services. It is important to ensure that information displayed is youth friendly, culturally sensitive and not graphic. Information can be provided to students in a variety of formats including:

- » Displaying information on screens or display areas in the school.
- » Putting information on the school website or home page.
- » Having information at support spaces in the school e.g. school nurse, counsellor, pastoral staff.
- » Putting posters up in the girls' bathrooms or changing room.
- » Including information in student school diaries or handbooks.

# Responding to and dealing with disclosures

Keeping Children Safe in Education - Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges produced by the Department of Education in 2014 states that all schools and staff have a responsibility to:

- » Provide a safe environment in which children can learn.
- » Identify children who may be in need of extra help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer significant harm. Staff have a responsibility to take appropriate action when children are identified.

All school staff should:

- » Know the safeguarding procedures in their school and who their designated safeguarding lead is.
- » Receive appropriate child protection training.
- » Have an awareness of signs of abuse and neglect (including risk factors for FGM and forced marriage) so they can identify cases of children who may be in need of help or protection.

If staff members have concerns about a child, including concerns about FGM or forced marriage, they should raise these with the school's or college's designated safeguarding lead. FGM and forced marriage are forms of child abuse and must be dealt with like any other form of child abuse.

“ If you are worried about someone who is at risk of FGM or has had FGM, you must share this information with social care or the police. It is their responsibility to investigate and safeguard and protect any girls or women involved.

*Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Female Genital Mutilation*

“ Chief executives, directors and senior managers should ensure that there are policies and procedures in place so organisations can work effectively together to protect people facing forced marriage. These procedures are set out in existing guidance on safeguarding children and adults with support needs.

*The Right to Choose - Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for dealing with Forced Marriage*

The Serious Crime Bill, passed in 2015, introduces mandatory reporting of 'known' (via disclosure or visual examination) cases of FGM in those under 18. Therefore professionals in schools have a legal obligation to report known cases of FGM to the police within one month of initial disclosure or identification. Failure to comply with the duty will be dealt with via existing disciplinary frameworks.

## **Safeguarding obligations and considerations**

- » It is necessary to pass on information of any disclosure to the school's Safeguarding Lead. This includes historical cutting (i.e. if the girl was cut a long time ago) or forced marriage, more recent incidences, and if a child is at risk of FGM or forced marriage. You must not keep a disclosure secret.
- » If a child has undergone FGM or forced marriage, even if it was many years ago, you must consider the potential risk to younger siblings and family members. Do not take at face value if you are reassured that a younger family member is not at risk.
- » A social services referral should be made.
- » In the unlikely event of there being immediate risk and where the safeguarding lead is not available i.e. if a girl discloses she is flying abroad the next morning and has concerns about herself or a younger family member, call the police immediately.

## How to respond to an FGM or Forced Marriage disclosure from a student

- » **If a young person discloses to you, you must stay calm.** FGM and forced marriage are often understandably emotive subjects but it is important that you are able to discuss the issue in a relaxed and professional way so as not to alarm the young person.
- » **Be mindful of prescribing feelings** – not saying things like “you must be so angry at your parents” or “you must hate what has been done to you” for example. Allow the young person disclosing to frame their feelings.
- » **Be mindful of terminology you use.**
  - A young person may feel very conflicted about what has happened to them. Even if they are suffering due to FGM or forced marriage, they still may not want to hear their parents or their culture disparaged or criticised.
  - **Avoid using judgmental and alienating terminology** such as ‘barbaric’, ‘backwards’, ‘primitive’, ‘disgusting’, ‘cruel’ or ‘evil’. This is both ideologically unsound, and practically ineffective. It is likely to make the young person defensive and disengaged.
  - Be aware that a young person may not necessarily refer to what has been done to them as ‘FGM’. They may call it being circumcised or being cut, or they may use a community-specific term such as ‘Sunna’ or ‘Tahara’.
- » **Do not ask intrusive or insensitive questions.** This includes asking for explicit details about what has happened to them, when it was done or how it was done. Allow the young person to share what they are comfortable sharing. It is not a staff member’s job or responsibility to investigate.
- » A young person may ask you not to tell anybody else what they have told you. **Do not make promises of confidentiality you cannot keep.** If someone under 18 has undergone FGM or forced marriage, or is at risk of undergoing it, you must pass the information on. You should make this clear to the young person so they do not feel betrayed later on. Explain simply why you are doing this – “for your safety and wellbeing I will have to pass this information on to the safeguarding lead at our school”.
- » **You should reassure the student that support is available.** There are support services and FGM specialist clinics in the UK to respond to any health complications. Some community organisations may also offer support. If you

want to explore support options available with a young person, **be mindful of managing expectations**. Access to clinics may also be an issue for under 18s as some require parental permission, or a GP referral. Some may be quite a distance away, particularly if the girl lives out of London or a big city. Try to work to support young women to access services.

- » It is important to **take any disclosures seriously and understand your safeguarding role and responsibility** as well as procedures. Do not respond to it as a private domestic issue. Particularly in the case of forced marriage, it can be dangerous to send the pupil back to the family home. Do not attempt to investigate or contact the family.
- » In responding to **forced marriage** it is important to ensure:
  - that you do not approach or engage the student's family or those with influence in the community without the express consent of the student. Contacting the family may result in putting the pupil in further danger.
  - that you contact the Forced Marriage Unit, children's, or adult's safeguarding lead prior to any contact with the family.
  - that you do not attempt to be a mediator or encourage mediation, reconciliation, arbitration or family counselling.
- » Do not worry if you can not answer all of the girl's questions there and then. It is better to admit that you do not know than attempt to answer the question. You can offer to research the question and get back to the young person when you find an answer.
- » There are many FGM and forced marriage organisations and resources available. Reach out to them if you need support.
- » It is important to remember FGM and forced marriage are forms of child abuse. Although they need to be dealt with sensitively, it is essential that disclosures are not ignored, minimized or swept under the rug.

The UK Government has issued clear guidelines on FGM and forced marriage:

- » **Multi-agency practice guidelines – handling forced marriage cases:**  
[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/322307/HMG\\_MULTI\\_AGENCY\\_PRACTICE\\_GUIDELINES\\_v1\\_180614\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322307/HMG_MULTI_AGENCY_PRACTICE_GUIDELINES_v1_180614_FINAL.pdf)
- » **Multi-agency guidelines on Female Genital Mutilation**  
[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/380125/MultiAgencyPracticeGuidelinesNov14.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380125/MultiAgencyPracticeGuidelinesNov14.pdf)

# For additional support on:

## Female Genital Mutilation:

### 1. FORWARD

T: + 44 (0) 208 960 4000  
E: [forward@forwarduk.org.uk](mailto:forward@forwarduk.org.uk)  
W: [www.forwarduk.org.uk](http://www.forwarduk.org.uk)

### 2. NSPCC – FGM Helpline

T: 0800 028 3550  
E: [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)  
W: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

### 3. Project Azure – Met Police dedicated response to FGM

T: + 44 (0) 207 161 2888

### 4. FGM Unit

E: [fgmenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fgmenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

## Forced Marriage:

### 1. IKWRO

T: + 44 (0) 2079206460  
Emergency Numbers:  
M: 07846 275246 (Kurdish/Arabic)  
M: 07846 310157 (Farsi/Dari/Turkish)  
E: [info@ikwro.org.uk](mailto:info@ikwro.org.uk)  
W: [www.ikwro.org.uk](http://www.ikwro.org.uk)

### 2. Karma Nirvana

Honour Network Helpline:  
0800 5999 247  
W: [www.karmanirvana.org.uk](http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk)

### 3. Forced Marriage Unit

T: +44 (0) 20 7008 0151  
E: [fmufco.gov.uk](mailto:fmufco.gov.uk)  
E: [fmuoutreach@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fmuoutreach@fco.gov.uk)

**CREATE Youth-Net** is a European project that connects four partners in three different countries (the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Portugal) to create a network of young people who are passionate about advocating for ending the practices of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage (FM).

**CREATE Youth-Net involves** training for young people; developing youth friendly resources on FGM and forced marriage; public awareness campaigns and events; and engaging key professionals on the issues through training and resource development.



## CREATE Youth-Net Partners are:

### **Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD) – United Kingdom:**



An African women led organisation dedicated to advancing and safeguarding the health and rights of African girls and women through campaign and policy work; public education and training; advice and support, information and research; and community engagement. FORWARD focuses on the issues of female genital mutilation, child marriage and obstetric fistula.

[www.forwarduk.org.uk](http://www.forwarduk.org.uk)

[forward@forwarduk.org.uk](mailto:forward@forwarduk.org.uk)

### **Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) – United Kingdom:**



Protects Middle Eastern and Afghan women and girls who are at risk of 'honour' based violence, forced marriage, child marriage, female genital mutilation and domestic violence and promotes their rights.

[www.ikwro.org.uk](http://www.ikwro.org.uk)

[info@ikwro.org.uk](mailto:info@ikwro.org.uk)

### **Associação para o Planeamento da Família (APF) – Portugal:**



Works on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) through identifying needs and providing support and responses to vulnerable populations (children, women, migrants) about their human rights, specifically the ones related to sexual and reproductive health.

[www.apf.pt](http://www.apf.pt)

[apfsede@apf.pt](mailto:apfsede@apf.pt)

### **The Federation of Somali Association Netherlands (FSAN) – the Netherlands:**



A non-profit organisation which aims to facilitate the participation of Somalis in Dutch society and strengthen the position of the Somali diaspora in the Netherlands. They work to improve collaboration between local Somali organisations and government by influencing and lobbying as well as implementing national projects and activities.

[www.fsan.nl](http://www.fsan.nl)

[info@fsan.nl](mailto:info@fsan.nl)