



FGM AWARE NEWSLETTER 3 – DECEMBER 2016

Welcome to the FGM Aware newsletter which aims to bring together practitioners working to respond to FGM and FGM survivors and campaigners. We share information on research, resources and practice issues as well as promoting events and training opportunities.

We do not necessarily endorse the views of shared articles or websites and we are not responsible for the content of external links.

EVENTS for 6th February - International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM.

The Kenyan Women in Scotland Association (KWISA) is hosting a conference in Edinburgh City Chambers on 4th February. 'Zero Tolerance to FGM: FGM is more than cutting'. Speakers, Q&A, discussion. 9.30am – 3.30pm, City Chambers, 253 High Street, Edinburgh. Book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/zero-tolerance-to-fgm-conference-2017-fgm-is-more-than-cutting-tickets-31150452843>

Glasgow 'Violence against Women' Partnership, in conjunction with Together for a Better Life and FGM Aware, is holding an event from 10am – 12.30pm, Monday 6th February, Satinwood Suite, Glasgow City Chambers. For more information and to register email jan@womenssupportproject.org.uk

Edinburgh Child Protection Committee and Bright Choices are holding an event on Monday 6th February, from 9.00am – 1.30pm, City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, Edinburgh. The programme for the day includes an introduction and information on FGM both from an international and local perspective; first hand narratives from survivors of FGM; input from professionals in Education, Health, Police, Social Work and the UK Border Force; an information marketplace and opportunities for networking. To book go to <https://internationalfgmday2017.eventbrite.co.uk>

RESOURCES

Women's Support Project is working on a new section on the FGM Aware website to highlight resources for raising the issue of FGM with children and young people. If you have developed any resources for use with children or young people that would be suitable for inclusion then please let us know.

Country Profile: FGM in Nigeria.

In Nigeria, the estimated prevalence of FGM among women aged 15 to 49 is 24.8% (DHS 2013, p 348). 20 million women and girls in Nigeria have undergone FGM. This represents 10% of the global total. (UNICEF, 2013).

'28 Too Many' has published a country profile of FGM in Nigeria, along with advocacy materials and supporting PowerPoint presentation which are available to download from their website

www.28toomany.org/countries/Nigeria/

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Men Speak Out is a partnership that aims to engage men in the process of ending FGM and, on a larger scale, to end violence against women and promote gender equality through a human rights approach. See www.menspeakout.eu

In December 2016. Men Speak Out launched the preliminary results of their research exploring men's involvement in FGM in Belgium, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. *"Across all three countries male and female research participants suggested that communication between men and women was crucial for an abandonment of the practice. On an interpersonal and private level, it is important that husband and wife speak to each other about the practice and discuss the decision not to have their daughters cut. Some suggested that having access to adequate information would make the task easier and that many of those who supported the practice simply 'did not know'. Involving different kinds of leaders, such as religious leaders, opinion leaders and community leaders in the abandonment movement was considered to be beneficial. Furthermore, data from the Netherlands has shown that the information new migrants and asylum seekers receive upon arrival has a strong impact on their attitudes towards the practice. Most men and women said that having more detailed knowledge of the consequences had changed their minds. Information provision for African migrants should no longer remain the responsibility of NGOs and associations but the MSO research shows that receiving such information through a governmental institution and public service may be of benefit and is likely to improve knowledge of the practice and reduce the willingness to continue."*

Report available to download at www.menspeakout.eu/?news=men-have-a-role-to-play-but-they-dont-play-it

FGM recorded by Health Services in England. July – September 2016

Cases of FGM recorded by Health Staffs in England from 1st July to 30th September have been added to the enhanced dataset collection platform. Please note that caution is advised throughout any interpretation of these findings because data completeness is often low and varies by commissioning region and submitter. For more information, see www.content.digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB22619

The report, covering July to September, shows 1205 newly recorded cases and 1971 total attendances where FGM was identified or a procedure for FGM was undertaken. Almost half of all cases (four in nine) relate to women and girls from London NHS commissioning areas.

Outside of London, the areas with the most reports (to the nearest five) were Birmingham (125), Bristol (90), Manchester (50) and Sheffield (40)". www.rcm.org.uk/news-views-and-analysis/news/fgm-stats-are-%E2%80%98most-concerning%E2%80%99

Janet Fyle professional policy advisor at the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) said; *"This latest set of data is most concerning as there appears to be more cases of FGM being identified, particularly in girls under eighteen and those born in the UK. The number of recorded cases in girls under eighteen was 39 cases. There were also 34 newly recorded cases identified in women and girls who were born in the UK. This is simply unacceptable."*

www.rcm.org.uk/news-views-and-analysis/news/%E2%80%98are-we-really-winning-the-fight-against-fgm%E2%80%99-ask-midwives-on-latest

MEDIA COVERAGE

FGM mandatory reporting: an example to follow?

Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation (FGM) was introduced a year ago in England & Wales. What lessons Scotland might learn from experience there?

Article by Neelam Sarkaria, the Journal of the Law Society of Scotland. October 2016

“Any introduction of mandatory reporting in Scotland must take into account the learning from the remainder of the UK. Training and awareness raising for regulated professionals subject to the duty in advance of the mandatory reporting duty is key, as is a need to collect accurate information detailing the outcome of mandatory reports. This information is critical in highlighting whether girls are being safeguarded and protected. Sustained prevention underpinned by a systemic and consistent approach is key.”

To read the full article go to www.journalonline.co.uk/Preview/1022345.aspx#.WfGh32D49V

INFORMATION SHARING

Kenyan Women in Scotland Association (KWISA) has been busy organising and supporting a series of events throughout Scotland, including ‘African Women’s Talk - Conversation on critical issues affecting African Women in Scotland’. For details check out their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/kwisauk/?fref=ts> or email kenyanwomeninscotland@gmail.com

Scottish Refugee Council is moving offices.

From Wednesday 4 January 2017, the Scottish Refugee Council will be based at 6th Floor, Portland House, 17 Renfield Street, Glasgow, G2 5AH. All phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same. For full details of the move, please see

www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3059_we_are_moving

Thanks to everyone who sent information for this newsletter. If you have any information for the next edition in early March please email via www.fgmaware.org or jan@womenssupportproject.org.uk

FGM Aware is a Women’s Support Project initiative

www.womenssupportproject.org.uk