

FGM – A Statement Opposing Female Genital Mutilation

What is FGM?

FGM means any procedure that involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. This includes piercing, pricking, and pulling/elongation.

FGM is also known as ‘cutting’ or ‘female circumcision’ and is sometimes referred to as sunna, thara, niaka, kutairi. FGM is not approved by any religion.

FGM is a harmful traditional practice. Some girls die from blood loss or infection as a direct result of FGM. Women can experience health problems throughout their lives and FGM can cause difficulties with childbirth. There are no health benefits to FGM.

Scottish & UK Legislation

FGM is a crime in Scotland and throughout the UK (1). It is also a crime for a person to carry out, assist or arrange the FGM of another person, even if the actual mutilation occurs outside Scotland.

(1) In Scotland it is illegal under the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the practice is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

Criminal Penalties

Anyone found guilty of an FGM offence – or of aiding and abetting such an offence – faces a penalty of up to 14 years in prison, a fine, or both.

Help & Support

If you are in the UK and have concerns that this may happen to you or someone you know, you can speak to a teacher, doctor, school nurse, social worker, police officer or any health, educational or social care professional. They will be able to help and support you.

You can also call the **NSPCC** on **0800 028 3550**. This is a 24-hour helpline for anyone concerned about girls or women at risk of FGM.

If you are in the UK and are at immediate risk, or are concerned that you may be taken overseas for the purpose of FGM, **please contact the police by dialling 999**.

If you are abroad and require help or advice please call the **Foreign and Commonwealth Office** on **+44 (0) 20 7008 1500** or the British High Commission or Embassy in the country you are visiting.



Contacts

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
www.fgmaware.org

Or contact these organisations:

KWISA

Support and information for African women on FGM and other harmful traditional practices.

kenyanwomeninscotland@gmail.com

0131 281 7347 / 07467 958565

WOMEN'S SUPPORT PROJECT

Website has information and resources on FGM, and details of organisations to help.

0141 418 0748

enquiries@womenssupportproject.org.uk

www.womenssupportproject.co.uk/vawtraining/content/resources/234/

SHAKTI WOMENS AID

Support for women and children who are experiencing domestic abuse or forced marriage

0131 475 2399

info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

AMINA: MUSLIM WOMEN'S HELPLINE

Support and information for women on any issue

0808 801 0301

info@mwrc.org.uk

www.mwrc.org.uk

This statement aims to help protect girls from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Keep it in your passport or in a purse or wallet that you carry with you all the time – especially when you go abroad.

You can show it to your family, friends and relatives. This statement makes it clear that FGM is a serious criminal offence in Scotland and throughout the UK, with a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison for anyone found guilty of the offence.

Signatures



Shona Robison
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport



Angela Constance
Cabinet Secretary for Communities,
Social Security and Equalities



Philip Gormley
Chief Constable
Police Scotland



John Swinney
Deputy First Minister
and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills



James Wolffe QC
Lord Advocate



Michael Matheson
Cabinet Secretary for Justice

This statement is supported by
Scottish Ministers, the Lord Advocate
and Police Scotland

© 2017

FGM