



FGM AWARE – NEWSLETTER 1 – JUNE 2016

Welcome to the FGM Aware newsletter which aims to bring together FGM survivors and campaigners along with practitioners working to respond to FGM. We will 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.

Policy and Guidance

Scotland's National Action Plan to prevent and eradicate FGM

Launched in February 2016, The Scottish Government's National Action Plan seeks to help partner organisations and communities work together in finding solutions to eradicate FGM. Read or download at www.fgmaware.org/essential-reading.html

Multi-agency guidance for Scotland has been developed and is expected to be released very shortly. Once available a copy will be added to the FGM Aware website at the above link. In the meantime the UK Guidelines were updated in April 2016. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>

World Health Organisation issues new guidelines for improving Health care for FGM.

The guidelines build on and contribute to international efforts to stop female genital mutilation, underlining the recognition that action must be taken across sectors to stop the practice and help those who are living with its consequences.

www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53947#.V1V4GeS1P9P May 2016

Resources

Hadas's Story.

Audio recording. 3min 50sec

Hasas talks to the NSPCC about how FGM has affected her life and why she believes FGM must stop.

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/

The True Story of Ghati and Rhobi.

Animation 6min 14sec

'The True Story of Ghati and Rhobi' tells the inspirational story of two girls resisting their community's practice of FGM. With the help of community elders, they change the way their community treats a girl's transition into womanhood by ending the practice. Developed by FORWARD and Animage Films in partnership with Children's Dignity Forum. www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1qR7n8hi4w A Swahili language version of this film 'Simulizi ya kweli ya Ghati na Rhobi' can be found here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuEnf4Xa0dQ

FGM anatomical models

These anatomical models illustrating different types of FGM and possible Health issues are useful for training and public education work. Women's Support Project has a set that people can borrow. Email jan@womenssupportproject.org.uk for details.

If you would like to buy a set, see here for details www.e-solidarity.org/activites-2014/FLYER-model-FGM-EN.pdf or email info@e-solidarity.org

Integrate Bristol - Resources for schools and training

Integrate Bristol is a charity formed to help with the integration of young people and children who have arrived from other countries and cultures. Check out their FGM resources for Secondary and Primary schools, along with educational videos at <http://integratebristol.org.uk/resources/>

Research and Statistics

Over 40 FGM cases uncovered in low density cities

Barnardo's and the Local Government Association announced that in a three month period in early 2016, over 40 cases of children at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) were identified in towns and cities across England *where it was not expected*. The largest numbers of cases came to light in towns and cities in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex through the work of the National FGM Centre. For more information see www.barnardos.org.uk/news/press_releases.htm?ref=113537

It is worth remembering that the report 'Tackling FGM in Scotland: A Scottish Model of Intervention' highlighted that at the time of the 2011 census every local authority in Scotland had residents who were potentially affected by FGM. See www.fgmaware.org/uploads/4/6/7/9/46792493/tackling_fgm.pdf

Mandatory reporting of FGM introduced in England and Wales.

Regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales are now required to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. Known cases are those where either a girl informs the person that an act of FGM –however described – has been carried out on her, or where the person observes physical signs on a girl appearing to show that an act of FGM has been carried out. For more information see www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/469448/FGM-Mandatory-Reporting-procedural-info-FINAL.pdf

In December 2015 the Health & Social Care Information Centre produced FGM 'Experimental Statistics' covering the period July – September 2015. See www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB19113

Mandatory reporting of FGM has not been welcomed by all, with some arguing that it can be stigmatising and discriminatory, and others concerned that the response is not consistent with practice in relation to other forms of gender based violence. For one example of a critical view see this article from a former Health professional. www.shiftingsands.org.uk/the-british-fgm-moral-crusade-is-an-edifice-built-on-sand/

Next edition

Thanks to everyone who sent information for this newsletter. The next edition of the FGM Aware newsletter will be out in early September. If you have any information for inclusion please send it to us by the end of August. You can email via www.fgmaware.org or to jan@womenssupportproject.org.uk

FGM Aware is a Women's Support Project initiative
www.womenssupportproject.org.uk