



FGM AWARE – NEWSLETTER 2 – September 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

African Women against FGM

The African Women against FGM project will be organising a programme of events across Scotland to raise awareness of FGM and to support improved service access and service delivery.

On Saturday 24th September they will hold 'A conversation on topical issues affecting African women in Scotland', 12pm – 3pm, Wester Hailes Education Centre, Edinburgh, EH14 2SU. All welcome. Planning is ongoing for a national event in early February to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM.

For further information on this project please email kenyanwomeninscotland@gmail.com

Tackling the issue of FGM in schools

A conference exploring strategies and best practice for FGM engagement in schools within the context of current legislative and statutory requirements. The day offers expert speakers, workshops, discussions and networking. Organised by Forward in partnership with NESTAC.

The conference will be in Manchester on 3rd November 2016. Fee: £70. To book a place contact Peggy@nestac.org or call 01706868993

Integrate UK Launch

10th December, City Hall, Bristol.

Integrate Bristol has done some fantastic prevention and public education work on FGM, designed and led by young people. They are now expanding their service to UK wide to reflect the reach of their work in schools, delivering peer education, and training front-line professionals.

Find out more at their launch where they will be demonstrating some of their media-based resources and music videos, including FGM, radicalisation and CSE, gang and drug culture and right wing extremism. They will also be launching a new music video and a film, in 6 parts, each of which will become an educational resource.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/integrate-uk-launch-tickets-27629841600>

Ending FGM in this generation: embedding the urgency

22nd November 2016, 9.30am - 4pm. Mary Sumner House, Westminster.

This FGM seminar will look at how to effectively embed national FGM policy at local level and to ensure that it is effectively tackled at local level. The full day seminar will be held in a participatory and interactive format allowing for all participants to contribute as well as have access to online collaborative tools. This seminar is aimed at those who are at the forefront in their areas of tackling FGM, and will bring us together to collaborate in sharing ideas and shaping recommendations. (NB Focus will be on England and Wales)

To register please follow this link: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ending-fgm-in-this-generation-embedding-the-urgency-registration-26602277127

FGM Aware Network

A Network meeting was held on 23rd August and provided an opportunity for members to catch up with what has been happening in FGM work, and to share future plans. We also discussed how statutory organisations, including Police Scotland, might best engage with communities and raise awareness of the law around FGM and their role in keeping women and girls safe. Karen Nisbet from Police Scotland provided information on the forthcoming 'Operation Limelight', a Metropolitan Police initiative planned for early September, and welcomed suggestions for future awareness initiatives. Check out the Police Scotland website information on FGM at www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/campaigns/2015/female-genital-mutilation

POLICY AND GUIDANCE

Multi-agency guidance for Scotland.

The FGM Multi-agency Guidance for Scotland has been delayed because of ongoing discussions around the Named Person scheme. In the meantime, the UK Guidance can be accessed on the FGM Aware website.

www.fgmaware.org/downloads.html

A National FGM Implementation Group is being established to support and oversee the implementation of the National FGM Action Plan.

Evaluation of FGM Prevention among Communities Affected by FGM: A Participatory Ethnographic Evaluation Research (PEER) Study, May 2016

Between 2010 and 2016, a number of community organisations worked to reduce women and girls' vulnerability to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in England and Wales, as part of the Tackling FGM Initiative. The Initiative aimed to encourage projects to report the outcomes of their work; in other words, changes in attitudes and behaviours over the course of the Initiative. This has been evaluated using a Participatory Ethnographic Evaluation Research (PEER) approach.

Amongst other issues the report explores prevention in terms of:

- Attitudes towards support for FGM and how this has shifted
- Ongoing support for FGM.
- Perceptions of efforts to end FGM (including 'mandatory reporting

The report is available at www.rosauk.org/resources/publications/

RESOURCES

FGM and Forced Marriage are linked in some cases. Glasgow Life, in partnership with the Scottish Government, have produced a Forced Marriage Learning Resource Pack which is available at www.gov.scot/resource/0041/00416988.pdf

A short film has been produced in conjunction with the media co-op; Forced Marriage: Love Rules, 5mins 50 secs, available at <https://vimeo.com/135033300>

FGM Aware website

As many of you will know, the FGM Aware website provides quick and easy access to key documents on FGM, as well as resources to support training and public education. You can also download the Scottish Government's 'Statement opposing FGM' in five languages. Check out the site at www.fgmaware.org and please pass details on to colleagues.

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Consultation with Potentially Affected Communities on Proposed Legislative Measures to Tackle FGM: Summary of Responses

Roshni, supported by the Scottish Government, recently engaged with a cross-section of communities potentially affected by Female Genital Mutilation to gather their views on potential changes to the law on in Scotland. Read the report here: www.roshni.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/roshniFGMReport2016.pdf

FGM recorded by Health professions in England

The first ever recorded figures for female genital mutilation (FGM) show that between April 2015 and March 2016 there were 5,702 new cases in England. The data was recorded by doctors and nurses who have been obliged to do so since July 2015. Overall 8,656 women and girls who'd suffered the abuse were seen. The data was collected from the Health and Social Care Information Centre. For more information see www.hscic.gov.uk/article/7180 and www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/36838870/the-first-ever-fgm-figures-show-nearly-6000-new-cases-in-england

MEDIA COVERAGE

'Operation Limelight' ran in early September, highlighting FGM and other harmful traditional practices. The Metropolitan Police led the operation, supported by children's services. *"The Met said officers approached and spoke with 49 families from the three flights from Freetown, Abuja and Lagos, totalling 138 people, as part of the operation."* It is worrying that, of the 49 families, only 22 were aware that FGM is illegal. During the operation, a man and a woman were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit child cruelty and an 11-year-old girl was taken into police protection.

First court order to jointly cover FGM and Forced Marriage

A woman from the West Midlands is the first person in the UK to be given a joint court order to protect her from both forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Read an account of the case here: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36587667

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

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