

## FGM Services

**Project Azure** (020) 7161 2888

Metropolitan Police

**NSPCC FGM Helpline** 0800 028 3550

**FORWARD** (020) 8960 4000

A campaign and support charity dedicated to advancing and safeguarding the sexual and reproductive health and rights of African girls and women. [www.forwarduk.org.uk](http://www.forwarduk.org.uk)

**Daughters of Eve** Text: 0798 303 0488

Advice about the different medical reversal options, advice about childbirth and how to live as healthily as possible with FGM. Advice about minimising the risk of FGM to you or someone you know [www.dofeve.org](http://www.dofeve.org)

**The Opal Clinic** (020) 8725 5949

Referral by GP or Midwife  
St George's Hospital, Blackshaw Road, SW17 0QT  
email: [Denise.Henry@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:Denise.Henry@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

**Acton African Well Women's Clinic** (020) 8383 8712

Free self-referral service for all women with FGM. Service run by women. Deinfibulation service under local anaesthetic at GP surgery or referral to local hospital if general anaesthetic is preferred. Counselling and interpreting services.  
Acton Health Centre 35-61 Church Road, W3 8QE  
Mobile: 07730 970 738 email: [Juliet.albert@nhs.net](mailto:Juliet.albert@nhs.net)

**African Well Women's Clinic** (020) 7188 6872

Monday - Friday 9am to 4pm  
Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital 8th Floor  
Antenatal Clinic, Lambeth Palace Road, SE1 7EH  
Mobile: 07956542576 email: [comfort.momoh@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:comfort.momoh@gstt.nhs.uk)

**West London African Women's Service** (020) 3315 3344

Sexual health, maternity and gynaecology advice and treatment for women affected by FGM. No GP referral required. Children and young women aged 13 and above.  
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital 369 Fulham Road, SW10 9NH email: [caw-tr.fgmwestlondon@nhs.net](mailto:caw-tr.fgmwestlondon@nhs.net)

**West London Centre for Sexual Health** (020) 3311 1579

Confidential walk-in Young People's Service held every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 2:30pm to 5:00pm (19 years and under)  
Charing Cross Hospital (South Wing), Fulham Palace Road, W6 8RF email: [caw-tr.fgmwestlondon@nhs.net](mailto:caw-tr.fgmwestlondon@nhs.net)

**African Woman's Clinic** 0845 155 5000 ext 2531

Specialist service for all women experiencing health problems as a result of FGM. Service is run by women. Self-referral or referral by health professional. Counselling and interpreting services.  
University College Hospital, OPD Clinic 3, EGA Wing  
235 Euston Road, NW1 2BU  
email: [maligaye.bikoo@udh.nhs.uk](mailto:maligaye.bikoo@udh.nhs.uk)



St. George's Healthcare

NHS Trust



Wandsworth  
Clinical Commissioning Group



If you suspect a girl has undergone or is at risk of FGM



Call Children's Social Care  
(020) 8871 6622  
or (020) 8871 6000 (after hours)

and the Metropolitan Police 101

If a girl is at immediate risk call 999

## Female Genital Mutilation Advice for Parents

FGM is an extremely harmful practice with devastating health consequences for girls and women. Some girls die from blood loss or infection as a direct result of the procedure.

Wandsworth Council  
(020) 8871 6437

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



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## What is FGM?

FGM stands for Female Genital Mutilation. It is also known as Female Genital Cutting or Female Circumcision. This practice is not related to male circumcision and is not accepted in any major religion.

## Where does FGM take place?

FGM is a cultural practice which commonly takes place in at least 28 African countries and some countries in the Middle-East and Asia. There has also been a worrying increase of the practice taking place within migrant communities in other parts of the world, including the UK.

## FGM is a Human Rights Violation and is illegal in the UK

The FGM Act 2003 makes it a criminal offence to:

- Carry out FGM in the UK or to take a girl abroad for the procedure;
- Assist with carrying out FGM in the UK;
- Assist a girl to carry out FGM on herself in the UK; or to
- Assist someone from outside of the UK to carry out FGM on a UK national or permanent UK resident.

**A person found guilty of the offence can face 14 years in prison, a fine - or both.**

Other words for FGM

*Sunna, Gudiniin, Tahara, Bondo*

## FGM has harmful consequences. There are no health benefits

FGM can kill - It's an extremely harmful practice and places a girl at risk of devastating health consequences. Some girls can die from blood loss or infection as a result of the procedure.

### Some examples of immediate health risks:

- Severe pain and shock
- Severe blood loss
- Infection
- Tetanus
- Difficulty in passing urine
- HIV transmission
- Life changing injuries or death

### Long-term implications include:

- Urinary and menstrual problems
- Recurring risk of infection, including: cysts, abscesses, ulcers, chronic pelvic infections and urinary tract infections
- Pain during sex and lack of pleasurable sensation
- Psychological consequences, including: post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and severe depression

**Female Genital Mutilation can affect a girl's future relationships and may require her to undergo surgery. Women who have undergone FGM are also likely to experience difficulty in childbirth.**

Every year 20,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of FGM in the UK.

## What to expect from your GP, Health Visitor and child's school

- You will be asked by your health professional at GP surgeries and maternity services if you have FGM or if you intend to perform FGM on your daughter. The Department of Health requires this information to be recorded.
- Your health professional or child's school can provide you with information about FGM.
- Your child's school will ask you about FGM if you are travelling to a country where FGM is practised.
- You can access any of the services for FGM on your own, or you can be referred by your GP.
- If FGM is suspected, medical and school staff are legally required to report it and follow child protection procedures.

## Types of Female Genital Mutilation

### Type 1: "Clitoridectomy"

This can involve either removing the clitoris or the clitoral hood.

### Type 2: "Excision"

This involves the removal of the clitoris and inner lips of the vagina.

### Type 3: "Infibulation"

This involves cutting the clitoris, inner and outer lips of the vagina and sewing or sealing them together, leaving only a small opening.

### Type 4: "Other"

All other harmful practices for non-medical purposes including pricking, piercing, cutting, scraping and burning of female genitalia.