

**FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
IS PERMANENT**

**TOGETHER
WE CAN END IT**

HELP LINE
0207 161 2888

IN COLLABORATION WITH:


Hoda Ali
FGM Safeguarding trainer
&
Campaigner

WHAT IS FGM?

- The World Health Organization (WHO) defines Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as:
- “All procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons” (2014).
- FGM is a violation of the child and woman. It is **child abuse** and **illegal** in the United Kingdom (UK)
- The practice is mostly carried out by traditional circumcisers, who often play other central roles in communities, such as attending childbirths.
- Increasingly, however, FGM is being performed by some health providers in other countries.



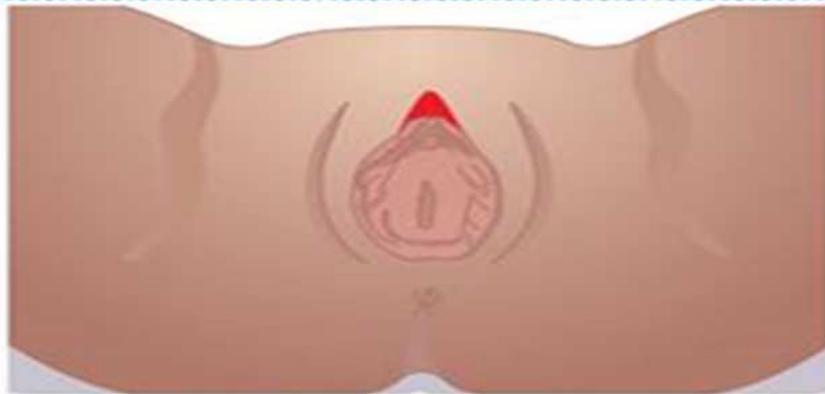
TERMINOLOGY DOES THIS MATTER?

- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**- describes the gravity and harm of the act. It is an advocacy term, used in legal documents including laws but may be viewed as negative e.g. The UK has “The FGM Act 2003”
- **Female Circumcision** is an inappropriate term widely used by some communities
- **Female Genital Cutting (FGC)** viewed as a compromise option and non judgemental
- **Sunna** increasingly used by communities as more acceptable form of FGM

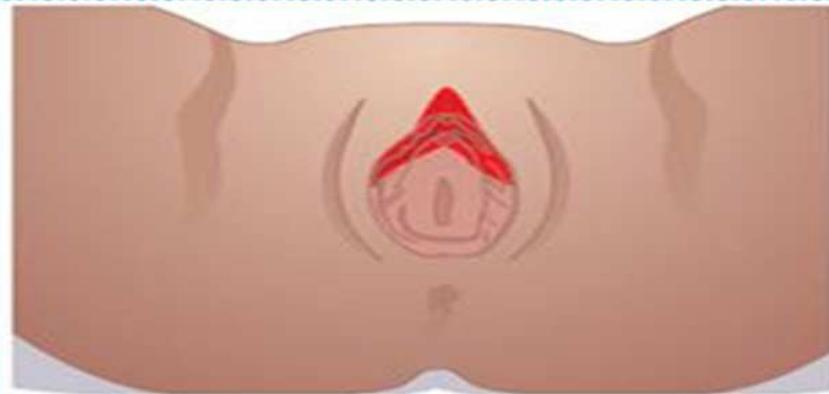


THE FOUR TYPES OF FGM

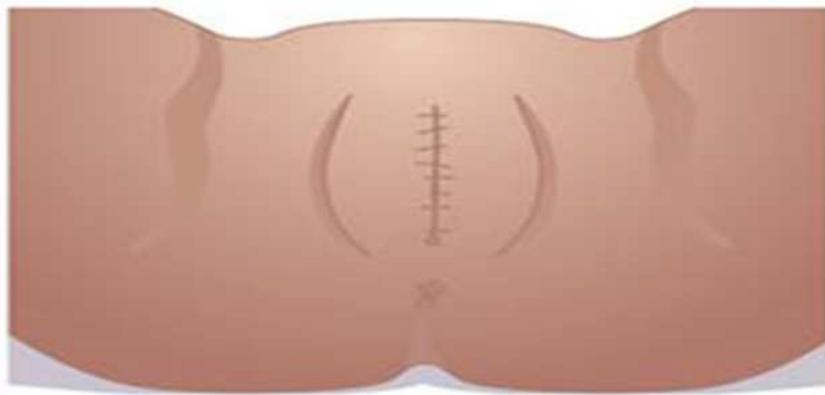
World Health Organization (2008) classification of female genital mutilation



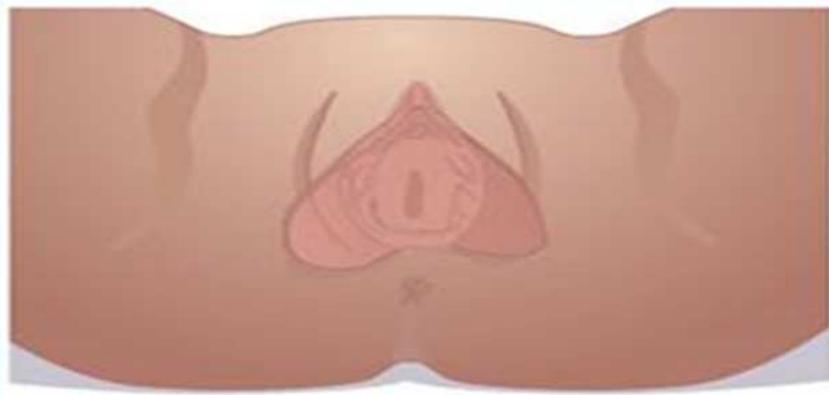
a) Type 1 – clitoridectomy



b) Type 2 – excision



c) Type 3 – infibulation



d) Type 4 – other, for example stretched labia

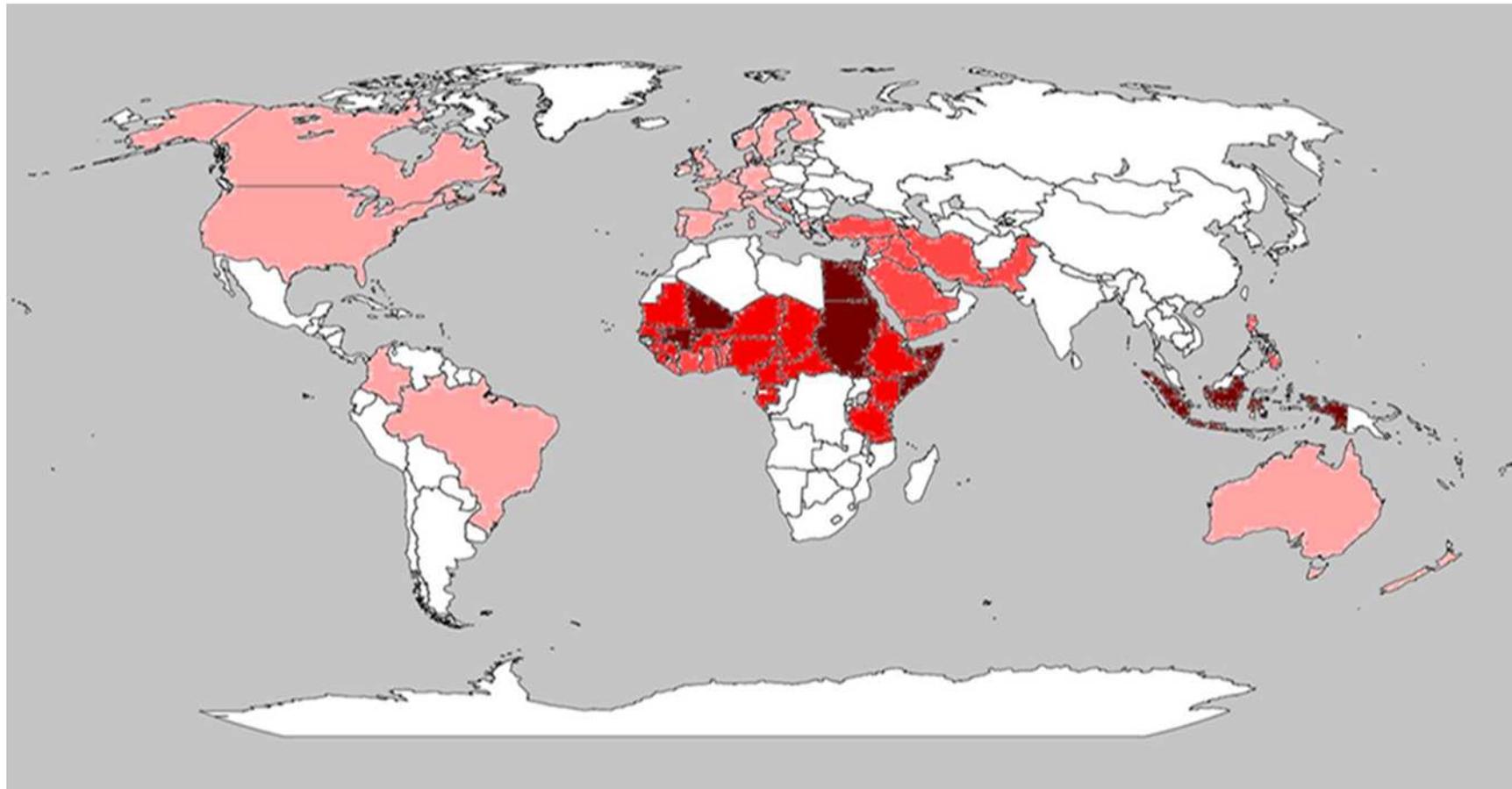
ORIGINS, PREVALENCE AND WHERE IT IS PRACTICED.

- **The history of FGM is not well known but the practice dated back at least 2000 years.**
- **The first historical reference to FGM can be found in the writings of Herodotus, who reported its existence in ancient Egypt in the 5th century B.C.**
- **Some believe that female circumcision was rooted in the Pharonic belief in the bisexuality of the gods.**
- **Reports from the 15th and 16th centuries suggest that female slaves were sold at a higher price if they were "sewn up" in a way that made them unable to give birth.**



STATISTICS FOR FGM

AN ESTIMATED 200 MILLION GIRLS AND WOMEN
ALIVE TODAY ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN
SUBJECTED TO FGM;



WHERE IS FGM PERFORMED?

- It is widely practiced in 28 countries in Africa, Parts of the Middle East, Yemen, Syria Northern Iraq and other Kurdish areas
- Reported among Bhora Muslims in India, Pakistan and Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and some ethnic groups in South America, Europe, USA, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, **Russia (Dagestan)**
- It is practiced at all educational levels and in all social classes and occurs among religious and non religious groups, although no religion mandates it.



COMPLICATIONS & CONSEQUENCES

- **Severe bleeding (haemorrhage, potentially life threatening complication) Shock**
- **Acute urine retention**
- **Infection (depending on the cleanliness of the instruments, the substances applied to wounds, and the bindings used on the legs or cut surfaces)**
- **Fractures or dislocations (when a struggling girl is restrained)**
- **Fever and septicaemia**
- **Potential HIV infection or other blood born virus**
- **Failure to heal**



LONG-TERM COMPLICATIONS

- **Difficulty in passing urine**
- **Recurring urinary tract infections**
- **Pelvic infections**
- **Infertility (from deep infections) scarring**
- **Difficulties in menstruation, fistulae (between the vagina and the bladder or rectum)**
- **Painful intercourse**
- **Sexual dysfunction**
- **Problems in pregnancy and childbirth (the need to cut the vagina to allow delivery and the trauma that results, often compounded by re-stitching)**
- **A wide range of psychological and psychosomatic disorders have been linked to FGM**



THE ULTIMATE CONSEQUENCE



DEATH



THE FGM ACT 1985- 2003 (AMENDED)

- **FGM Act 1985**
- **FGM Act amendment 2003**
- **Separate from Child Protection Act**
- **Local NHS Policies in some settings**

- **Yet**
- **No prosecution**
- **Little data collection**
- **Little training**



FGM AND THE UK

- **Women and girls affected by FGM can be found in every local authority in England and Wales, with the highest number living in London.**
- **The scale of the problem remains unknown because of a lack of reliable data, but the government estimates 170,000 women and girls are affected by FGM in the UK, with the highest rate of prevalence found in Southwark,**
- **More than 70 women & girls seek medical treatments each month in the NHS.**
- **A further 65,000 girls under the age of 13 are at risk of FGM every year in the UK** (City University & Equality Now, 2007 revised 2014)

NORBURY SCHOOL

- **Pupils at Norbury School in Harrow are the first in the country to start learning about FGM in Year 3, aged just 7. The school, in partnership with the NSPCC, starts raising awareness of children's bodily rights with their 'PANTS' programme in Reception.**
- **Last year there were 70 newly recorded cases of FGM in the borough.**
- **If you or someone you know is affected by this issue you can call the#NSPCC #FGM helpline on 0800 028 3550 or Childline 0800 1111**



NORBURY SCHOOL IN HARROW

- **'It is a big worry that with older children being encouraged to say no to FGM, communities will be more likely to carry out the practice on nursery-age children.'**
- **For this reason, early years staff need a high level of awareness as they are crucial in identifying children at risk.**
- **'It is important that practitioners are educated in how to recognise the signs that FGM may be occurring in a child's life and how to challenge these within the realms of safeguarding a child, safely, confidentially and sensitively and all within the laws of this country.'**



MY BODY MY RULES

- We offer opportunities for professionals to observe safeguarding lessons across 3 phases, EYFS, KS1 and KS2 , for adults to receive FGM Awareness Training in their own settings and also have the capacity to plan bespoke training.**
- Our inspirational students are empowered to share their knowledge with other schools and are keen to attend assemblies to raise awareness of Norbury Schools safeguarding slogan “MY BODY MY RULES.”**



NORBURY SCHOOL IN HARROW

- **Pupils are aware and have an understanding of My Body My Body My Rules underpins our Safeguarding knowledge from Nursery – Year 6. Within EYFS and Key Stage 1 our youngest members of the school community base their learning on PANTS, a NSPCC initiative. The learning is then extended in Key Stage 2 to FGM awareness.**
- **“There are many Myths given for undergoing FGM. for example, it makes you cleaner, healthier or a good person but we know that none of these are true. it is simply an act of violence and it must end because all children have the right to be protected from harm.**



NORBURY SCHOOL IN HARROW

- We have had lessons about why FGM continues and it seems that the people supporting FGM just don't have the right information.
- FGM is happening in the UK too and as we are the next generation, it is very important that we know the facts about what exactly it is, so that we can break the cycle.
 - **It is time we stood up and break the cycle.”**



PROVIDE SAFE SPACE

- **Understanding the community and providing access to specialist FGM services are vital steps for changing the existing culture.**
- **Engagement with the community and integration**
- **Providing a safe space for dialogue and discussion raising awareness of FGM**
- **Providing specialist health services which should incorporate female practitioners, interpreters, physical and psychological support.**



SAFEGUARDING: EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

- **Protecting** children from maltreatment.
- **Preventing** impairment of children's health or development.
- **Ensuring** that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- **Taking** action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

(Source: DfE (2013) Working Together to Safeguard Children)



FGM IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

- **FGM IS CHILD ABUSE**
- **FGM IS ILLEGAL IN THE UK**
- **We must always provide sensitive, non-judgemental appropriate care.**



USEFUL WEBSITES

- An e-learning tool for all NHS staff from Health Education England. <http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/female-genital-mutilation>
- http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/fgm_resources/
- www.fco.gov.uk/fgm
- www.forwarduk.org.uk
- www.rcog.org.uk
- www.rcm.org.uk
- www.nspcc.org.uk
- www.28toomany.org
- NSPCC help line 0800 028 3550



**WE CAN NOT END FGM THROUGH
LEGISLATION ALONE. IT TAKES ALL OF US,
TO ACT & WORK TOGETHER**

- **We know that by talking and breaking down the taboo around FGM, we can reach and support many more girls and young women, who are part of the future of our health service, our communities, our country.....**
- **Thank you for your invaluable support in protecting girls.**



**CULTURAL
ACCEPTANCE DOES
NOT MEAN
ACCEPTING THE
UNACCEPTABLE....
AND FGM IS
UNACCEPTABLE**



MY CONTACT DETAILS

- **Mrs: Hoda Ali FGM Campaigner**
- **Level 8 North**
- **Ealing Hospital NHS Trust,**
- **Uxbridge Road,**
- **Southall,**
- **Middlesex,**
- **UB1 3HW**
- **Number: 0208 967 5746**
- **Emails: hodan.warsame@nhs.net
hodoameen@googlemail.com**
- **Twitter: @HodaMAli**

