

Anyone can contact the Ealing Children's Integrated Response Service (ECIRS) which provides information and support regarding any concerns about a child/young person's welfare or safety.

Concern that a girl may be at risk of FGM/ FGM has been carried out

If you are a:

**Child/
young person**

**Ealing
Staff**

**Member of the
community**

1. Discuss with child protection officer
2. Contact ECIRS (24hrs) 0208 825 8000 option 2 and decide with them if police CP Team need to be informed
3. Keep record of any conversation with child and/or family

1. Remember that no-one is allowed to hurt you physically or emotionally, and FGM is illegal
2. Talk to someone you trust, maybe a teacher or a school nurse. They are there to help
3. Call the Ealing Children's Integrated Response Service (ECIRS)* (24hrs) 0208 825 8000 option 2

Concerned about:

- A child- Contact ECIRS (24hrs) 0208 825 8000 option 2
- An adult- Contact Acton African Well Woman Clinic 020 8383 8761 07956 001 065

Clinics- Provide information, advice/counselling and/or reversal for women and girls

Clinics & Support Advisors

Acton African Well Woman Clinic
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
35-61 Church Road, Acton, W3 8QE
Tel: 0208 383 8761 / 07956 001 065

Ealing Hospital Hope Clinic
Appointment only
Uxbridge Rd, Southall, UB1 3HW
Tel: 07980584397

African Well Women's Health Clinic, Antenatal Clinic
Friday 9am – 12pm (appointments only)
Central Middlesex Hospital,
Acton Lane, Park Royal, NW10 7NS
Tel: 0208 963 7180

Ealing Genito-Urino Medicine (GUM)
Ealing Hospital,
Level 8, Southall UB1 3HW
Tel: 0208 967 5554

Southall Community Alliance
1 High St, Southall,
Middlesex UB1 3DA
Tel: 0208 574 8855

Support for schools & Professionals

Ealing Health Improvement Team
For curriculum support
HealthySchools@ealing.gov.uk
Tel: 0208 825 7656

Ealing Grid for Learning
www.egfl.org.uk/services-children/
female-genital-mutilation-fgm

School nurses can also be contacted for advice and support

Ealing Child Protection Advisers
Tel: 0208 825 8930

Ealing Safeguarding Children Board Training
ESCBTraining@ealing.gov.uk
Tel: 0208 825 8274

Ealing Children's Integrated Response Service (ECIRS)
Tel: 0208 825 8000 option 2

National organisations:

PROJECT AZURE
(Metropolitan Police Department for FGM)
020 7161 2888

NSPCC
(Advice, information, & assistance to members of the public & professionals)
0800 028 3550 Open 24/7

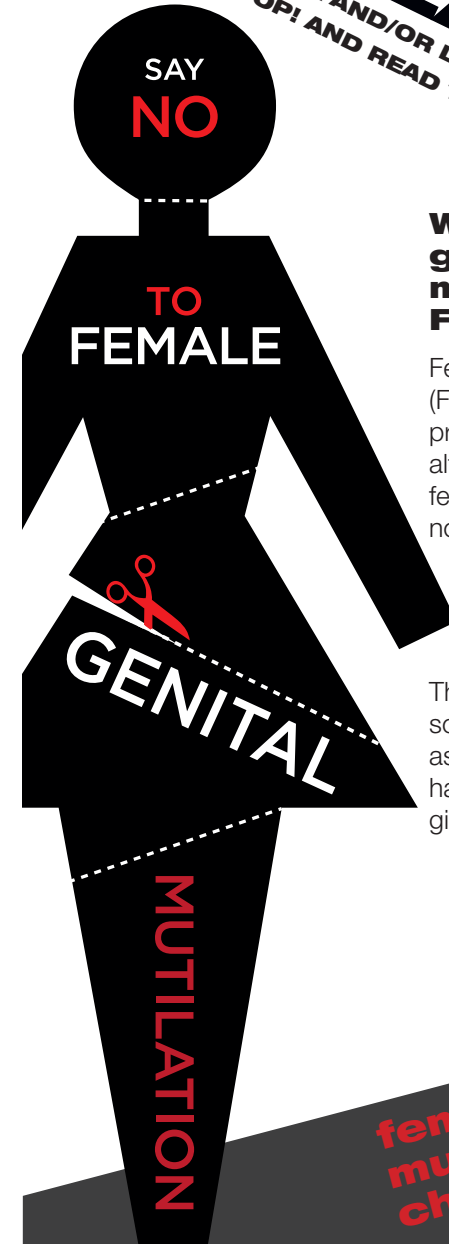
FORWARD
Leading UK organisation on FGM and women and girls' issues. <http://www.forwarduk.org.uk>
020 8960 4000

Ealing FGM Partnership January 2015



An e-version is available at:
www.egfl.org.uk/services-children/female-genital-mutilation-fgm

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
DO YOU WORK AND/OR LIVE IN EALING?
IF YES, STOP! AND READ THIS LEAFLET!!!



What is female genital mutilation FGM?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) includes all procedures that intentionally alters or causes injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

The procedure, (which some communities refer to as female genital cutting), has no health benefits for girls and women.

female genital mutilation is child abuse

It is usually a girl's parents or her extended family that arrange FGM. It is often seen as an act of love, rather than cruelty. Justifications include:



There is no religion that advocates for FGM.

Types of FGM

Type 1 Removal of the hood of the clitoris (sometimes mistakenly called Sunnah).

Type 2 Excision – removal of the clitoris with partial or total excision of the labia minora.

Type 3 Infibulation – removal of the clitoris and labia minora with narrowing by stitching of the vaginal opening

Type 4 All other types of harmful traditional practices that mutilate the female genitalia, including cutting, incising, scraping and cauterisation.

Who is at risk?

School-aged girls are most at risk as the practice is usually carried out on girls between infancy and age 15 with the majority of cases occurring between the ages of 5 and 8 years (HM Government, 2011).

Because of the hidden nature of the crime, it is difficult to estimate the prevalence of FGM. FGM is a tradition practised on girls in 28 African countries and parts of the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. Globally, prevalence is highest in the Horn of Africa.

FGM and the law in the UK

Under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, it is an offence in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for anyone (regardless of their nationality and residence status) to:

- Perform FGM in the UK or abroad
- Assist the carrying out of FGM in the UK or abroad
- Assist a girl to carry out FGM on herself in the UK or abroad
- Assist from the UK a non-UK person to carry out FGM outside the UK on a UK national or permanent UK resident.

Any person found guilty of an offence under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 will be liable to a maximum penalty of 14 years' imprisonment or a fine or both.

FGM in Ealing

It is assumed that there is a high FGM prevalence in Ealing as the borough is the 3rd most ethnically diverse borough in the country, with a large majority of inhabitants being from the Horn of Africa where FGM is widely practised.

Signs to look out for Pre-FGM procedure:

- Holidays, especially summer, are historically a time when adults take their daughters abroad with the intention of carrying out the procedure on them
- A family belongs to a community in which FGM is practised
- The child may also talk about a special procedure/ceremony that is going to take place.

Post-FGM procedure:

- Prolonged absence from school or other activities
- Noticeable behaviour change on return
- Possibly with bladder or menstrual problems and frequent need to go to the toilet
- Girls have difficulty sitting still and look uncomfortable, complain about pain between their legs, or talk of something somebody did to them that they are not allowed to talk about.

Health implications include

Short term:

- Severe pain and shock
- Broken limbs (from being held down)
- Infection
- Increased risk of blood-borne viruses including HIV, Hepatitis B and C, urine retention
- Injury to adjacent tissues
- Immediate fatal haemorrhaging i.e. death

Long term:

- Kidney, urinary and vaginal infection
- Sexual dysfunction
- Problems giving birth
- Psychological trauma

What to do if you are concerned a girl is at risk (including yourself) or has undergone FGM?:

- If you are a member of the public, please contact ECIRS – Tel: (24hrs) 0208 825 8000 option 2
- If you are a professional and are concerned that a girl is at risk of or has undergone FGM, you must follow your organisation's child protection procedures.
- Cultural sensitivity and must be respected throughout any referral process.