Female genital mutilation (FGM) is child abuse.

Clinics & Support Advisors

Acton African Well Woman Clinic
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
35-61 Church Road, Acton, W3 8OE
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-Urinary 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

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

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

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

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

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.

SAY

NO

TO

FEMALE

FEMALE

GENITAL

MUTILATION

FEMALE

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MUTILATION

FEMALE

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MUTILATION

GENITAL

MUTILATION

female genital
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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:

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.

There is no religion that advocates for FGM. A family belonging to a community in which FGM is practiced often believes that FGM is a way of protecting family honour, ensuring cleanliness, preserving the Virginity of the daughter and preserving tradition.

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 place of residence) 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 abroad on a UK or permanent resident UK national.

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 and a fine or both.

What to do if you are concerned a girl is at risk

- 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 FGM, follow your organisation's child protection procedures. Cultural sensitivity must be respected throughout any referral process.

Social implications include:

- Psychological trauma
- Problems gaining weight
- Sexual dysfunction
- Kidney injury and vaginal infection

Long term:
Immediate feel powerlessness, fear of death
Injury to reproductive system
Childhood and adult depression
Fear of punishment
Infection
Broken limbs (from being held down)
Severe pain and shock

Short term:
Health implications include:

Pre-FGM procedure:

- The child may also talk about a special procedure/ritual that is going to take place.
- A family belonging to a community in which FGM is practised.
- They have taken their daughter abroad with the intention of carrying out this procedure. Often, when adults take their daughter abroad, the daughter is not allowed to talk about the experience.
- A girl who has undergone FGM.

Post-FGM procedure:

- Immediate feeling of powerlessness, fear of death
- Injury to reproductive system
- Child and adult depression
- Fear of punishment
- Infection
- Broken limbs (from being held down)
- Severe pain and shock

Warning signs:

- Prolonged absence from school or other activities
- Noticeable change in behaviour
- Possibly with bed-wetting or unusual behaviour
- Post-FGM procedure:

- Social implications include:
- Psychological trauma
- Sexual dysfunction
- Kidney, urinary and vaginal infection
- Sexual dysfunction
- Problems giving birth
- Psychological trauma

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