

black childrens' lives matter

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nagalro
every child seen and heard
must be

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FGM - Female Genital Mutilation - is illegal

Information leaflet for parents recently arrived in the UK

(To translate this leaflet cut and paste text into Google Translate)

FGM, female genital mutilation, has many other names. These include female circumcision, female genital cutting, female initiation, Sunna, Megrez and Khitan.

FGM is illegal in England, Wales and Northern Ireland under the FM Act 2003, with a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison. In Scotland it is illegal under the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005. It is a form of child abuse and violence against women. FGM refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is illegal in the UK to perform FGM, but also to cause this to happen by getting someone else to help by aiding, or assisting, or supporting you to get this to happen. It is illegal to assist:

- a girl to perform such an act on herself
- to perform such acts on a UK national overseas
- for a Non-UK national to perform such acts overseas
- to aid or assist any of the above by failing to protect the girl for whom you have parental responsibility, or for whom you have responsibility at the given time.

The law in the UK means that anyone who knows of this happening, or that knows someone who has tried to make it happen, has a mandatory reporting duty. This means that health and social care professionals, and teachers, in England and Wales have to report known cases of FGM in under 18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. The duty came into force on 31/10/2015. Countries where children are at risk of FGM are identified by the Home Office as: Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Egypt, Nigeria, Yemen and Indonesia. Children are at higher risk if there is a family history of FGM. There have been recent successful prosecutions where female genital mutilation has taken place, in 2019 and 2023. This is from the story of an adult survivor:

“I remember hiding under a bed and holding on to the leg of the bed and being held down. I was told that I would be “ok.” It was traumatic.

I was aged 6 when it happened to me, but I remember this as if it happened yesterday.” If you or someone you know is at risk then the following numbers and links will help:

NSPCC: 0800 028 35500

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/>

www.victimsupport.org.uk | t 0800 028 3550

Southall Black Sisters: 020 8571 0800

www.unicef.org

Orchid Project: 020 3752 5505

The Metropolitan Police: 0207 161 2888

Crime Stoppers: 0800 555 111

Childline: 0800 1111

The Mix: 0808 808 4994