

ABSUM

FANADU DI MINDJER

QODIIN

NIAKA

GUDINIIN

KUYANO

KHITAN

BAGNE KUTARI

MEKHNISHAB

KATNA KHIFAD THARA

SUNNA

IBI UGWU

UDINIIN MEGREZ

TAHOOR

HALALAYS

GADJA SONDE

BONDO KUYANO

CIRCUMCISION

CUTTING

STOP
FEMALE
GENITAL
MUTILATION

FGM IS ILLEGAL.

FGM IS CHILD
ABUSE.

WE ALL HAVE A
RESPONSIBILITY
TO STOP IT.

FOR STAFF AND
PROFESSIONALS
WORKING WITH
CHILDREN, YOUNG
PEOPLE AND
FAMILIES



SBNI

Safeguarding Board
for Northern Ireland

WHAT IS FGM?

FGM includes “all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (World Health Organization).” Religious, social or cultural reasons are motivations given for FGM. FGM is a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls. It can have serious short and long-term health and well-being implications.

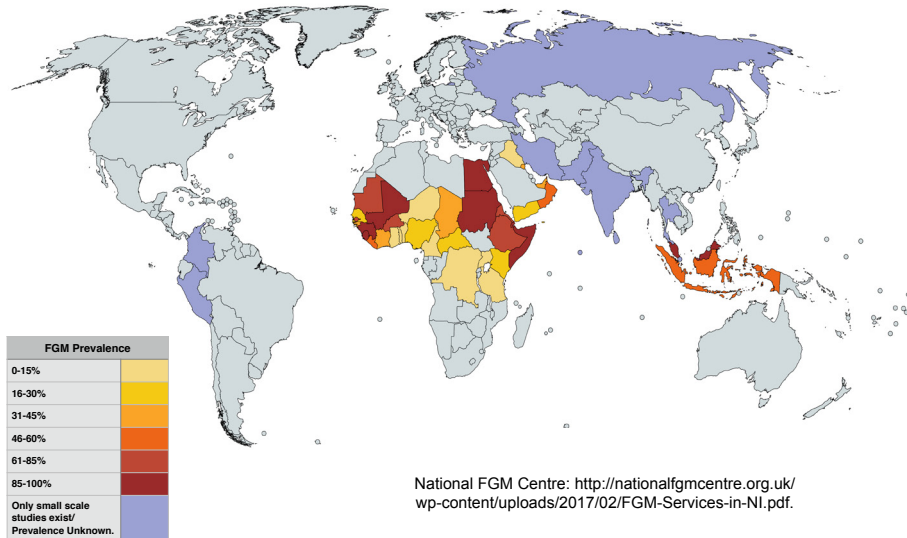
LEGAL CONTEXT

FGM is illegal in Northern Ireland as stipulated under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and the Serious Crime Act 2015. Anyone who commits FGM faces up to 14 years in prison, a fine, or both. Anyone found guilty of failing to protect a girl from risk of FGM faces up to 7 years in prison, a fine, or both.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All staff have a responsibility to be aware of FGM and respond in keeping with child and adult safeguarding policy and procedures and guidance and to signpost to sources of support.

FGM GLOBAL PREVALENCE MAP (%)



WHO IS AFFECTED BY FGM?

Girls are more at risk of FGM when it has been carried out on their mother, sister or a member of their extended family (HM Government, 2016). The age at which FGM is carried out varies. It can occur when a girl is new-born, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during pregnancy.

SIGNS FGM MAY TAKE PLACE

Quite often a girl at immediate risk of FGM may not know what is going to happen, but she might talk about or you may become aware of:

- a long holiday abroad or going 'home' to visit family;
- relative or cutter visiting from abroad;
- a special occasion or ceremony to 'become a woman' or get ready for marriage;
- a female relative being cut – a sister, cousin, or an older female relative such as a mother or aunt.

INDICATORS FGM MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE

Possible signs may include a girl:

- having difficulty walking, standing or sitting;
- spending longer in the bathroom or toilet;
- appearing withdrawn, anxious or depressed;
- displaying unusual behaviour after an absence from school or college;
- being particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations;
- asking for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.

THE PHYSICAL EFFECTS OF FGM

FGM can be extremely painful and dangerous. It can cause: severe pain; shock; bleeding; infection such as tetanus, HIV and hepatitis B and C; organ damage; blood loss and infections that can cause death in some cases; and genital swelling.

IF YOU SUSPECT/KNOW THAT A GIRL IS AT RISK OF FGM:

Don't be afraid to talk to children/young people, parents, families and communities about FGM.

Police should be contacted if a child/young person is deemed to be in immediate danger. A full risk assessment will be conducted jointly by children's social care and police in line with the Core Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

If you have concerns about a child/young person being at risk or suffering FGM you must follow the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) Regional Core Child Protection Policy and Procedures see: <http://www.proceduresonline.com/sbni/>

**STOP
FEMALE
GENITAL
MUTILATION**

SOURCES OF HELP AND INFORMATION

Police by dialling 101 or in an emergency 999

Local Gateway Teams:

Belfast HSC Trust	Tel: 028 9050 7000;
South Eastern HSC Trust	Tel: 0300 1000 300;
Northern HSC Trust	Tel: 0300 1234 333;
Southern HSC Trust	Tel: 028 3741 5285;
Western HSC Trust	Tel: 028 7131 4090.

Outside normal working hours and in an emergency (Friday 5.00pm-Monday 9.00am, including Bank holidays) Regional Emergency Social Work Service
TEL: 028 9504 9999

**For advice, support or to report, call the free 24 hour anonymous
FGM HELPLINE 0800 028 3550**

Childline - online, on the phone, anytime
Childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

National FGM Centre: <http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FGM-Services-in-NI.pdf>

Multi-agency Guidance:
<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/multi-agency-practice-guidelines-on-female-genital-mutilation.pdf>