

FORWARD

FORWARD provides advice, one-to-one and group support, coffee mornings and signposting to specialist services for women and men in English, Arabic, Somali and French. They can answer questions about FGM, other harmful practices, and other forms of domestic and sexual violence.

- Phone: 0208 960 4000 / 07834 168 141
- Email: support@forwarduk.org.uk
- Website: www.forwarduk.org.uk

FGM Clinics

National FGM Support Clinics are community-based clinics that offer a range of support services for non-pregnant women with FGM, aged 18 or older.

The services, provided by an all-female team in a sensitive and non-judgemental environment, include: general information, physical assessment and treatment, emotional support and counselling, access to FGM Health Advocates and referrals to specialist consultants, if needed. Find your local clinic [here](#)

Call the **Brent MASH consultation line** - 02089372228, **Support for under 18s** is available via LNWH-tr.safeguardingadmin-BCS@nhs.net

Pregnant women can seek support via their local hospital's maternity services. consult your safeguarding lead or refer direct to the **Brent Family Front Door** on 02089374300. Find your [local maternity service](#)

All regulated professionals in health, social care and teachers in England & Wales have a **mandatory duty** to report 'known' FGM cases in under 18s to the police. Find out more [here](#). Call **101** to make a report or **999** if a child is in immediate danger

For patients with FGM, **health professionals** must report data to **NHS digital and FGM-IS**. **FGM-IS** is part of the NHS Spine and is a requirement for NHS staff to share information related to FGM. The FGM-IS contains an indicator on the SCRa that a girl (under 18) has a family history of FGM.

Practitioners working directly with families, including social workers, can enhance their safeguarding response by:

- **Asking** about FGM in all relevant assessments and consider the [FGM Risk Assessment Tool Kit](#) to support their work
- Use the [FGM Prevalence Map](#) to plan assessments
- **Gather views** of both parents regarding FGM along with exploring family history and travel plans
- **Offer to refer** female adults to a [FGM Clinic](#)
- **Educate** the family about the health consequences of FGM and the law in the UK

Worried how the conversation may go? Check out the [FGM Direct Work Tool Kit](#)

- Find out more here:
- [Home Office Guidance](#)
 - [National FGM Centre](#)
 - [FGM Specialist Network](#)
 - [Home Office Resource Pack](#)
 - [Men Speak Out Report](#)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to female genitalia for non-medical reasons. Over **200 million women and girls worldwide** have undergone FGM in over 40 countries including in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. With migration, this practice has become a **global health issue** and women and girls from FGM affected communities in Europe, America and other countries may be at risk of undergoing this practice. See [here](#) for up to date information on worldwide prevalence rates.

The procedure may be carried out shortly after birth, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during a woman's first pregnancy.

FGM may be linked to forced marriage and other forms of so called "honour" based violence. **It is not required by any religion.**

FGM is **child abuse** and a form of **violence against women and girls**. It has no health benefits. **Immediate and long term health consequences** include severe pain and blood loss, shock, mental health problems, complications in childbirth, and/or death. FGM may happen to girls in the UK as well as overseas. Girls of school age subjected to FGM overseas are likely to be taken abroad (often to the family's country of origin) at the start of the school holidays, particularly in the summer, allowing sufficient time to recover before returning to school.

FGM is **illegal** in England & Wales. As amended by the **Serious Crime Act 2015**, the **Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003** now includes: an offence of **failing to protect** a girl from the risk of FGM; **Extra-territorial jurisdiction** over offences of FGM committed abroad by UK nationals and those habitually resident in the UK; **lifelong anonymity** for victims of FGM; **FGM Protection Orders** which can be used to protect girls at risk; and a **mandatory reporting duty** which requires professionals to report 'known' cases of FGM in under 18s to the police.

The **FGM Enhanced Dataset** is data collected by healthcare providers in England, including **acute hospital providers, mental health providers and GP practices**. There were **6,590** individual women and girls who had an attendance where FGM was identified between April 2019 - March 2020, **290** of which were within Brent. These accounted for **11,895 total attendances** reported at NHS trusts and GP practices where FGM was identified, **1,405** of which were in Brent, which was the highest recording borough in this period.

The **FGM Enhanced Dataset** opened in 2015. Between April 2015 - March 2020, information was reported by NHS trusts and GP practices about **24,420 individual women and girls**, who had a total of **52,050 attendances** where FGM was identified

