



Female Genital Mutilation: Recognising and Preventing FGM

A recent study revealed that 137,000 women in England and Wales are estimated to be living with the consequences of FGM. To address this issue, the Home Office is championing a proactive approach and has launched this free online FGM training package.

Hope's journey

Take a look at how several people in Hope's community explain how important it is for her to take this step on her journey towards adulthood. **Click to select.**

- This is something we as women must do. This is our tradition and the of our people.
- Genital organs are ugly and dirty, they should be cut and dirty.
- You will bring us our family out, bad luck and even death.
- Mutilation prevents virginity, chastity, respect and purity.
- You will not be accepted as part of our community. You will not marry, no one will want to marry you.
- The church will burn this baby during delivery.

Social norms

In some communities where FGM takes place, marriage is seen as necessary for family honour. Without FGM a woman will stand no chance of marriage and will be shunned by family, friends and those within the community.

FGM is cited as a promotion of purity, cleanliness and, most importantly, chastity to prevent women being promiscuous. To achieve this they remove the desire to have sexual intercourse and, in some cases, the possibility of carrying out the act itself.

Community acceptance is a powerful driving force behind the continuation of FGM and practitioners portray the results as joyful occasions that reinforce community values and ethics boundaries.

Click on the family members to hear their experiences.

FGM - international prevalence

According to the WHO, an estimated 100 to 140 million girls and women worldwide have experienced FGM. In Africa alone approximately 3 million girls undergo some form of the procedure every year.

The practice is most common in the western, eastern, and north-eastern regions of Africa respectively. 24 countries and 19 more countries in Asia and the Middle East.

Click here to see more detailed information for the UNICEF 2013 report.

Who is this course for?

This course is useful for anyone who is interested in gaining an overview of FGM, particularly frontline staff in healthcare, police, Border Force and children's social care.

What will you learn?

Throughout the course, we follow Hope as she encounters the key issues relating to FGM and we see how they affect her throughout her life. The training will help a wide range of professionals to identify and assist girls who are at risk of FGM.

You can help improve the lives of children and women. Sign up for the free training by visiting www.fgmelearning.co.uk

