



Female **F**

Genital **G**

Mutilation **M**

FGM is illegal AND a form of child abuse, therefore should be dealt with as part of existing child and adult safeguarding/protection structures policies and procedures.

Definition: *FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non medical reasons (female genital cutting, circumcision, initiation).*

Are you concerned?

Where a child is at imminent risk of harm, for example you believe the child is due to leave the country for FGM in the next 48 hours.

Call the police on
999

Where you have concerns that FGM may be about to happen and these are not imminent.

Call the children's
helpdesk on
01452 426565

The following are some of the indicators, **non-exhaustive list**, to look out for where FGM maybe about to take place soon:

A girl talking about a **'special ceremony'**

A girl talking about **'becoming a woman'**

Parents or other relatives state that the child will be out of the country for a prolonged period of time

A girl may talk about a **holiday** to her **country of origin**

A girl may confide in a teacher or another adult if they suspect it might happen to them soon

Parents may seek to withdraw their child from learning about FGM in school



TOP TIPS

- Follow child protection process with any concerns relating to this harmful practice/crime. **There is a DUTY to all professionals to act to safeguard girls at risk.**
- Use of interpreters - do not use family members or anyone who may know the individual in question or have any influence in the person's community. Interpreters must be sought very carefully, have the appropriate training about FGM but must not be connected to the local community.
- Do not focus on cultural sensitivity by using a worker from the same culture as the individual. Focus on the safeguarding of the individual like any other child protection matter.



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