

## WHAT IS FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION?

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

FGM has been categorised into four types, ranging from a symbolic prick to the clitoris to the extensive removal and narrowing of the vaginal opening. All these forms have been found in the UK. FGM is sometimes known as 'female genital cutting' or 'female circumcision'.

**FACT: THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 137,000 WOMEN AND GIRLS AFFECTED BY FGM IN ENGLAND AND WALES.**

## SPOTTING THE SIGNS

Suspicious may arise in a number of ways that a child is being prepared for FGM to take place abroad. These include knowing that the family belongs to a community in which FGM is practiced and is making preparations for the child to take a holiday, arranging vaccinations, or planning absence from school. The child may also talk about a special procedure or ceremony that is going to take place.

**FACT: FGM IS NOT A RELIGIOUS REQUIREMENT OR OBLIGATION.**

Indicators that FGM may already have occurred include prolonged absence from school or other activities with noticeable behaviour change on return, complaints about pain between their legs, or talk of something somebody did to them that they are not allowed to talk about.

**FACT: WHILST FGM IS OFTEN SEEN AS AN ACT OF LOVE BY THE FAMILY RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING FGM, IT CAUSES SIGNIFICANT HARM AND CONSTITUTES PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE. IN THE UK IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE CHILD ABUSE, CARRYING A MAXIMUM PRISON SENTENCE OF 14 YEARS.**

## FINDING HELP AND ADVICE

NSPCC FGM Helpline **0800 028 3550** or **fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk**

For support services in Hampshire, visit the Police and Crime Commissioner's website at **www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk**

For leaflets about FGM in other languages, visit **www.nhs.uk** and search for FGM. If someone is at imminent risk of FGM, contact the police on 999

Produced by the Portsmouth FGM Steering Group, including representatives of the NHS, Southern Domestic Abuse Service, the African Women's Forum, the Minority Women's Group, Portsmouth Safeguarding Boards, Hampshire Constabulary, and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

DEPRESSION  
FERTILITY PROBLEMS  
SEVERE PAIN  
NIGHT SWEATS

ABUSE  
PAINFUL INTERCOURSE  
PAINFUL MENSTRUATION

ANXIETY  
PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA  
MIND

HURT  
COMPLICATIONS DURING CHILD BIRTH  
TRAUMA

EXCESSIVE BLEEDING  
PAINFUL MENSTRUATION  
DEATH  
FERTILITY PROBLEMS

SEVERE INFECTIONS  
DEPRESSION  
SEVERE PAIN



FGM CAN HAVE  
SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES  
FOR THE HEALTH  
OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO  
[WWW.HAMPSHIRE-PCC.GOV.UK](http://WWW.HAMPSHIRE-PCC.GOV.UK)



TO ADD YOUR  
MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

FGM IS HAPPENING  
IN THE UK