

Ashiana Network is:

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Company Number 2972903

The company is also a registered
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For further information about Ashiana and/or referral to any of our services please contact us:

Tel: 020 8539 0427

Email: info@ashiana.org.uk

Website: www.ashiana.org.uk

Find us on Facebook

Ashiana Network

Stopping violence in our lives and in our communities.

Who We Are

Ashiana Network provides specialist services to girls and women at risk of domestic violence and harmful practices. We work with young women from South Asian, Turkish and Middle Eastern communities, and empower them to make their own decisions through providing specialist housing, advice and support services. We also offer counselling services to women we support and carry out preventative work through awareness raising and training around harmful practices and domestic abuse.



Female Genital Mutilation



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What is FGM?

Female Genital Mutilation refers to the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non medical reasons. It is estimated that 200 million girls alive today have undergone FGM worldwide, with 9179 attendances reported at NHS Trusts in one year.

Why does it happen?

Advocates from different communities incorrectly assume FGM is beneficial for girls by preserving their modesty and virginity. By removing parts of female genitalia, advocates suggest girls will be less likely to engage in sexual relations. These advocates do not consider FGM as abuse but rather a necessary measure to protect a girl's status and improve marriage prospects.

Other myths include improving cleanliness and enhancing fertility whilst others claim FGM is a rite of passage to 'womanhood'. Regardless of the reasoning, FGM is extremely HARMFUL and UNNECESSARY.

Types of FGM

Clitoridectomy- The partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or the layer of skin that covers the clitoris.

Excision- The clitoris and inner labia are partially or totally removed, with or without cutting or removing the inner labia.

Infibulation– the most severe form. Consists of narrowing the vaginal orifice with creation of a covering seal by cutting the inner and outer labia, with or without removal of the clitoris. The wound edges are stitched or held for a certain period of time (for example, girls' legs are bound together), to create the covering seal. A small opening is left for urine and menstrual blood to escape.

The fourth type consists of all other procedures to the genitalia of women for non-medical purposes, such as pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and sealing.

Health Implications

Cysts Infections Incontinence

Pain and/or difficulty having sex

Constant pain Depression

Repeated infections Bleeding

Self Harm Problems during labour and childbirth Infertility

What does the law say?

The FGM Act (2003) makes it illegal to help, support or arrange for FGM to be performed on a girl either in the UK or abroad. The offence can be punished by up to 14 years in prison, a fine, or both.

If you or anyone you know has been threatened or affected by FGM please contact the **FGM Unit on 0800 028 3550**

or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

In an emergency please dial 999.