
Female Genital Mutilation

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Leicester
City Council

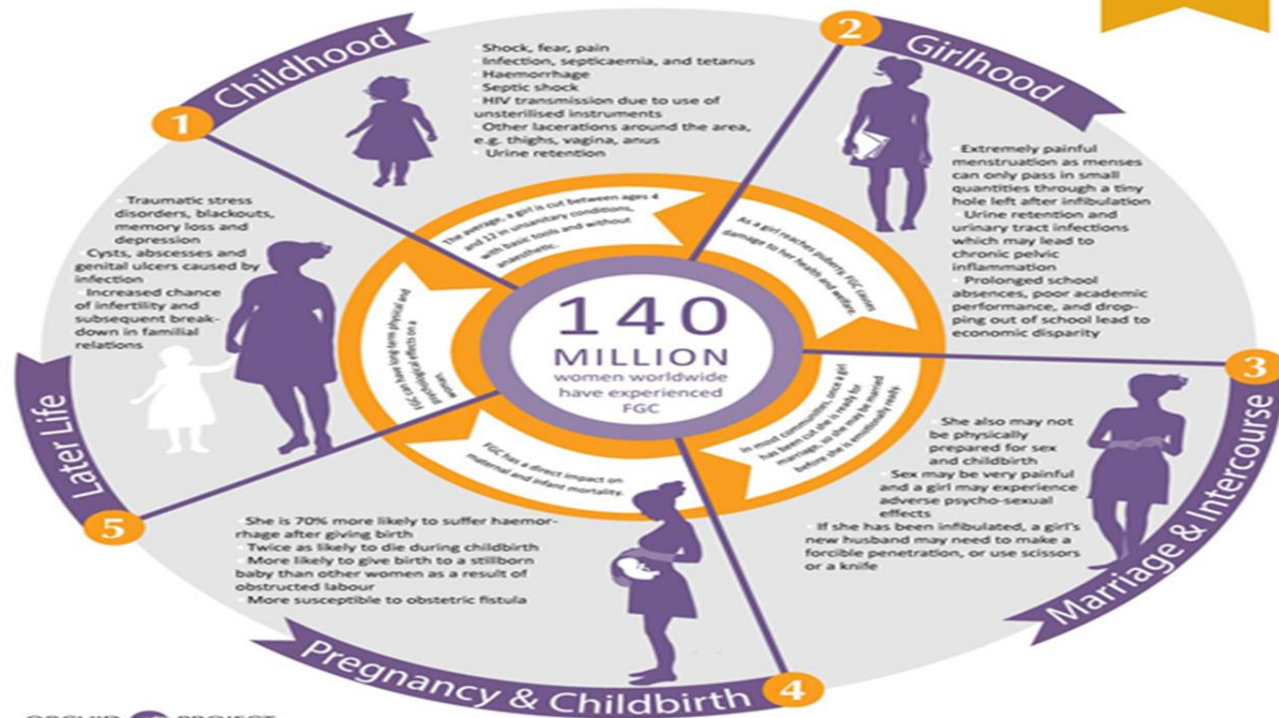
What is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

“All procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons“

(World Health Organisation)

HOW GENITAL CUTTING affects girls and women THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES

3 million
girls a year
are at risk of
being cut in
Africa alone,
with others
at risk
around the
world



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Cultural underpinnings / motives

- Brings status and respect
- Preserves virginity/chastity
- Rite of passage
- Social acceptance, especially for marriage
- Upholds family honour
- Cleanses and purifies
- Gives a sense of belonging to the community
- Fulfils a religious requirement believed to exist
- Perpetuates a custom/tradition
- Clean and hygienic
- Cosmetically desirable
- Believed (mistakenly) to make childbirth safer for the infant

Prevalence

- 137,000 women and girls are living with FGM in the UK
- 60,000 girls aged 13 and under are at risk
- Manchester, Slough, Bristol, Leicester and Birmingham have high prevalence rates, ranging from 12 to 16 per 1,000,
- 30 recorded observations of FGM (April 2015 to March 2016), 15 were pregnant women in midwifery services.
- 1,239 or 3.7% of Leicester females aged 0 to 15 were born in regions where FGM prevalence is high
- 9892 or 11.3% of Leicester females aged 16 to 49 were born in regions where FGM prevalence is high

Work to date

- Policy & Procedure
- Awareness raising campaign 2017
- Leicester's Children's Trust Board (LCTB) session

Proposed approach

- Tackling FGM through Behaviour Change
- Community Engagement

Task and Finish Group



Next steps

Actions to be considered:

- Partnership pledge

Ending Female Genital Mutilation in Coventry



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is recognised internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. FGM has been proven to have a devastating impact on women's and girls' emotional, physical, and mental health and well-being. That's why together we strongly condemn the practice of FGM.

Our pledge

We will tackle FGM by

- Supporting culture change
- Protecting girls at risk
- Supporting women affected by FGM
- Supporting communities to oppose FGM
- Raising awareness
- Enforcing the law

Signatories

Cllr Ann Lucas,
Leader of the Council

Cllr Allison Gingell,
Cllr, Coventry Health & Wellbeing Board

Cllr Phillip Townsend,
Cllr, Police and Crime Board

Dr Adrian Canale-Parola,
Cllr, Coventry & Rugby
Clinical Commissioning Group

Jane Moses,
Cllr, Children's
Safeguarding Board

Steven Banbury,
Cllr Executive,
Voluntary Action Coventry

Claire Bell,
Commander Cllr
Superintendent
West Midlands Police

Rachel Newson,
Cllr Executive,
Coventry & Warwickshire
Partnership Trust

Christine McNaught,
Cllr Operating Officer
FMT - ACE for Women

Fadel Tahouri,
Cllr, BME & AMB Federation

Virginia Ringane,
Founder, Coventry Centre for
Community Organisations

Andy Hardy,
Cllr Executive Officer
Usability Hospital Coventry
and Warwickshire

John Lafram,
Vice Chair of
Coventry Usability

Dr Sue Bottom,
Centre Director,
Public Health England

Joan Beck,
Cllr, Adult
Safeguarding Board



Public Health
England

University Hospital
Coventry and Warwickshire

Voluntary Action Coventry

Coventry and Rugby
Clinical Commissioning Group



Next Steps continued

- Prevention through awareness raising, community engagement and training
- Support law enforcement activity
- Review and update safeguarding processes
- Consideration of specialist services and clinics