

Key Learning from FGM Conference

Context

- 100 to 140 million girls and women worldwide have been victims of FGM;
- In England and Wales around 137,000 women are victims of FGM;
- It is estimated 65,000 girls aged 13 and under are at risk of FGM in the UK;
- There are 4 types of FGM. There may be no evidence of type 4 as this may involve incising, scrapping or pricking. Once scars are healed there may be no evidence of FGM taking place;
- FGM constitutes physical and emotional abuse;
- It is not linked to a religious belief, and it pre dates Christianity and Islam;

Communities in the UK most at risk include:

- **Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Sierra Leon, parts of Egypt, Nigeria and Eritrea**
- **Non-African counties include: Yemen, Afghanistan, Kurdistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey, South Thailand and Pakistan.**

Law

- FGM now falls under the Serious Crimes Act 2015, the Law protects all British Nationals, it is illegal to practise FGM, take British girls or permanent or habitual residents of the UK Abroad for FGM.
- FGM carries a penalty of 14 years in prison;
- The Serious crimes Act give life-long anonymity to victims of FGM;
- There are FGM Protection Orders available;
- It is mandatory for social care professionals, teachers and health professionals to report cases of FGM in girls under 18 years of age, EVEN if a child has told you or you have observed a physical sign appearing to show FGM;
- If doctors carry out a procedure in order for women to give birth this also carries the risk of prosecution;

Sign to watch out for

- Girls going away on special holidays or prolonged absence from school;
- If girls are uncomfortable in schools and have trouble walking, difficulty urinating, or have withdrawn unusual behaviour;

What to do if you are concerned about a girl or you are aware it has occurred?

- It must be reported FGM to the Police via the **101 non-emergency number**;
- The duty is a personal duty which requires the individual professional who becomes aware of the case to make a report; the responsibility cannot be transferred;

If you believe that a victim or potential victim of FGM is in immediate danger always **dial 999**

NSPCC-FGM HELPLINE 0800 028 3550 FREE and is AVAILABLE 24/7 AND IS ANONYMOUS or you can email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk