

Female Genital Mutilation

Introduction

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is violence against female children and women, a serious public health hazard, and a human rights issue. It constitutes child abuse and causes physical, psychological and sexual harm, which can be severely disabling. Protecting children and mothers from FGM is everybody's business. This course will increase your understanding of the issues surrounding Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). It will also help you handle situations appropriately where FGM has occurred or might occur.



Audience

The course aims to help anyone who works with children or has regular contact with children to recognise and respond to situations where abuse linked to Female Genital Mutilation has occurred or may occur.

For example, those who work in schools, healthcare, social care, faith organisations, community groups or the police.

Objectives

In this course you will:

- Know what FGM is and when and where it is performed
- Know the facts and figures
- Understand the laws that help to protect women and girls from FGM
- Understand the socio-cultural context, including the perception of FGM as a religious obligation
- Know what the impact of FGM is
- Understand the attitudes towards FGM
- Know how to identify an FGM victim or potential victim
- Know how to help prevent and ultimately eliminate the practice
- Know the principles to follow when FGM is suspected or has been performed
- Know the roles of different professionals

Modules

This course contains the following modules:

Module name

The hard facts

The beliefs behind FGM

The impact of FGM

Challenges for the professional

Content

Here are some of the topics covered in all four modules:

What happens? | UK numbers | What is FGM? | The procedure | What happens to victims? | FGM across the globe | FGM in the UK | Its origins | What laws are there to protect women? | Voices from the FGM community | The beliefs behind FGM | The reasons | Controlling women | FGM and religion | Hygiene, femininity and aesthetics | Social pressures and expectations | Cultural change in the UK | Clerics and communities reject FGM | A personal story | Range of complications | Severe to fatal consequences | Short and long term consequences | Sex, pregnancy and childbirth | Impact on the individual | Psychological impact | The UK's approach to FGM | Your response to FGM | Key message for professionals | The four Ps | Key message for professionals | Critical roles | At school: Indicators of risk | At school: indicators FGM has taken place | Gathering information in a health care setting | What should I say? | How should I respond? | Pregnancy and childbirth | Counselling | The role of the Police | The role of Social Care