

PACT NOTICE BOARD

FGM

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision or cutting.



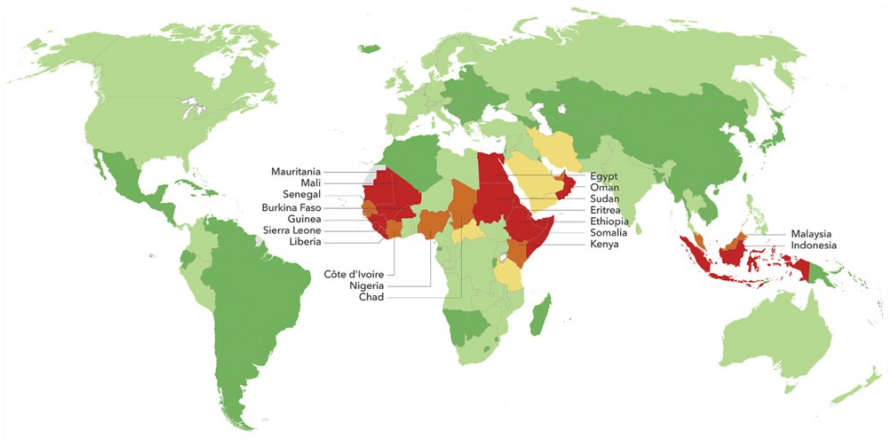
FGM is often performed by someone with no medical training who uses instruments such as a knife, scalpel, scissors, glass or razor blade. Children are rarely given anaesthetic or antiseptic treatment and are often forcibly restrained.

It is believed that the majority of cases happen between the ages 5-8.

FGM is illegal

FGM has been a criminal offence since 1985. In 2003 it became a criminal offence for anyone in the UK to take their child abroad to have FGM. It is also a legal offence to not report FGM to the police if you know an FGM procedure has been carried out.

FGM can happen in the UK or abroad. The areas with a higher number of FGM procedures are:



A child at immediate risk of FGM may ask you directly for help. But even if they don't know what's going to happen, there may be other signs. You may become aware of:

Signs and indicators

- a family arranging a long holiday or visit to family overseas during term time or the summer holidays
- unexpected, repeated or prolonged absence from school
- a girl struggling to keep up in school and the quality of her academic work declining

What to do?

- ⇒ If you think a child is in immediate danger of FGM, contact the police.
- ⇒ If you know a child has had an FGM procedure carried out you have a legal duty to contact the police.
- ⇒ All FGM concerns should always be recorded onto CPOMS to alert and inform a DSL.