



National Organisations

FORWARD- Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development

**Unit 4, 765-767 Harrow Road
London, NW10 5NY**

**Tel: 020 8960 4000
www.forwarduk.org.uk**

Local Organisations

**Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre
Truro Health Park
Infirmary Hill
Truro
TR1 2JA**

Safeguarding of girls

All safeguarding referrals in Cornwall are made through the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU).

Telephone: 0300 123 1116

www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/7106777/MARU-leaflet-MAY-2014.PDF



Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC)

CRASAC has trained professionals who can give help and advice along with training to any professional bodies working with girls at risk of FGM.

CRASAC has specially trained counsellors that will support and counsel women and girls who have been affected by FGM.

CRASAC'S mission is to raise awareness and support the campaign to end FGM worldwide.



**Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre
Truro Health Park Infirmary Hill Truro TR1 2JA**

Tel: 01872 262100

**Email: help@crasac.co.uk
www.crasaccornwall.co.uk**



(FGM) Female Genital Mutilation

**Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre
Truro Health Park Infirmary Hill Truro TR1 2JA**

Tel: 01872 262100 Email: help@crasac.co.uk

www.crasaccornwall.co.uk

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Call us on 01872 262100

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), also known as female circumcision is widely practiced in more than 28 African countries, parts of the Middle East, some parts of Asia and in parts of various other countries including the UK.

It is not required by any religion and is practiced by Christians, Muslims, Jews and non-believers in a wide range of communities and cultures.

The UK Law

FGM is against the law in the UK under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and is a form of child abuse. It is a very serious crime and carries a penalty of 14 years in prison. It is also an offence to take a female child out of the UK for that purpose or to arrange it.

When FGM has occurred after January 2004 the Police will need to be informed.

What is FGM?

There are different types of female circumcision depending on the area or community that practices it. The World Health Organisation describes:

Type i

Removal of part or the entire clitoris.

Type ii

Removal of part or most of the external genitalia with stitching or narrowing or sealing of it with or without the removal of part or the entire clitoris.

Type iii

Removal of part or most of the external genitalia with stitching or narrowing of the vaginal opening and sealing of the large labia. This is often called infibulation.

Type iv

Refers to stretching or pulling of the clitoris and/or labia; burning of the clitoris and surrounding tissue; scraping of the tissue around the vaginal opening or cutting of the vagina. Introduction of herbs causing bleeding, tightening and narrowing of the vagina.

FGM/Circumcision is dangerous to health

Short term problems include severe pain, difficulty passing urine, bleeding, infection and death.

For some types long term problems include difficulty passing urine and long painful periods. For type iii there may be a long scar which can make sex and childbirth difficult. Recurrent infections can lead to infertility.

Women may also feel angry, depressed and suffer from post traumatic stress disorder.



Indications a child may be at risk

- If a girl comes from a country with a high incidence of FGM
- Mother or other siblings have undergone FGM
- Child may talk about a "special Ceremony" or special event

If a girl has undergone FGM she may

- Spend a long time in the toilet
- Be in pain
- Exhibit signs of abuse
- Be afraid to play with the other children
- Be quiet and withdrawn

Facts about FGM

1. 170,000 girls and women are living with FGM in England and Wales.
2. 65,000 girls and women under 15 years old are at risk of FGM in England and Wales.
3. Cornwall now enjoys a multicultural environment with many peoples of differing cultures settling within the county.