

FGM

What it is

- Female genital mutilation is a procedure where female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed but there is no medical reason for it. It is very painful and can seriously harm the young lady. There are 4 types: Clitoridectomy, Excision, Infibulation and other. FGM is usually carried out on young girls between infancy and the age of 15 but most commonly before puberty starts. Health consequences can include death, severe pain, broken limbs plus many more.
- It is done because some communities believe that it is necessary so the girl is eligible for marriage, they feel it gives them health benefits, preservation of virginity, cleanliness, status in the community and family honour are just some of the reasons.
- It is also known as female circumcision, cutting, sunna, gudniin, halalays, tahur, megrez and Khitan

Signs

- Signs that a girl could be at risk: Older sibling or cousin who has had it, Girls says she is having a special procedure, Child is leaving the country for a prolonged period of time, The girl is taken to a country with high prevalence of FGM, Parents or older relatives consider FGM integral to religious beliefs, Strong levels of influence help by Pro - FGM elders in the family, A girl has limited level of integration within UK community, A girl is withdrawn from sex education
- Signs FGM has occurred: Prolonged absence, frequent need to go to the toilet, long break to urinate, Urinary tract infections, Noticeable behaviour change, Talk of something somebody did, Change of dress from tight to loose, Difficulty in sitting down, Complain about pain between their legs

What to do

- If a girl under 18 has discussed she has undergone FGM or you have visually identified FGM you will need to call the police on 101, your DSL and your local children's services team
- If you suspect this will happen report again to 101, DSL and your local children's services team
- If you are concerned a girl is in immediate danger you must call 999 and also then inform your DSL and your local children's services team

Useful Websites

- www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-fgm
- www.nhs.uk/conditions/female-genital-mutilation
- www.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/fgm

Questions

- What does FGM stand for and an explanation of it?
- How would you spot a student that had recently suffered FGM?
- How would you spot a student that may be at risk of FGM?
- What would you do if you suspected or knew of FGM?