



# Female Genital Mutilation Awareness Training



# CULTURES

All cultures practice or have some form of  
“**rites of passage**” - from child to  
adulthood

**(Dorkenoo 1995)**



# WHAT IS FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises of all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons.

(WHO 1997)

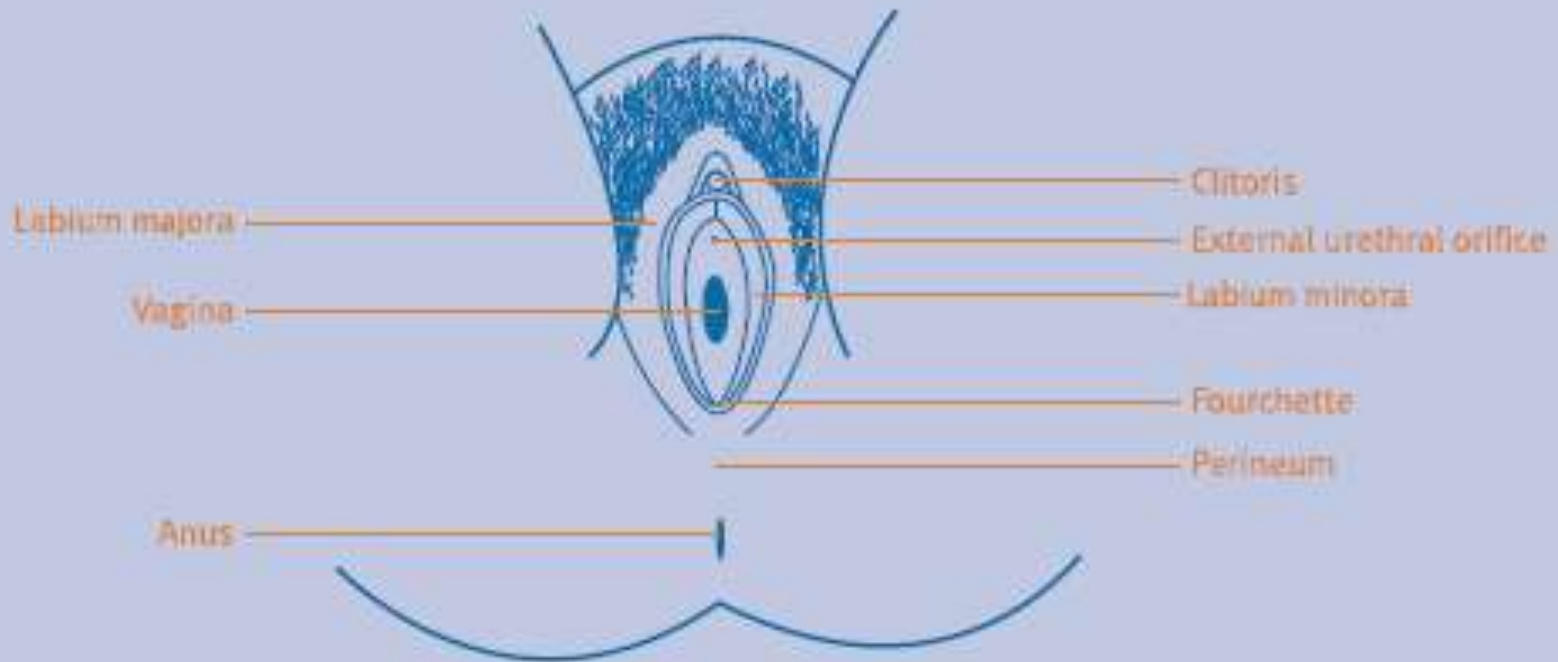


Diagrams of female genital area to follow



# Normal Female Genitalia

Diagram 1: Normal external female genitalia



# Definitions of FGM

Diagram 2: Type 1 FGM

Sunna

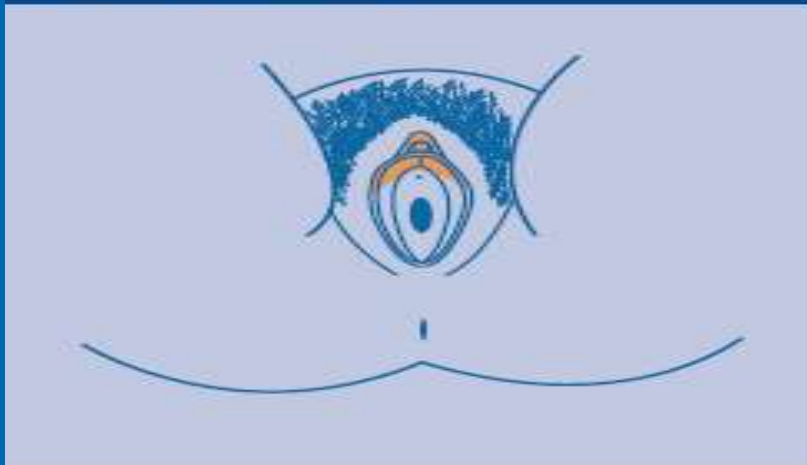


Diagram 3: Type 2 FGM

Excision



Diagram 4: Type 3 FGM

Infibulation

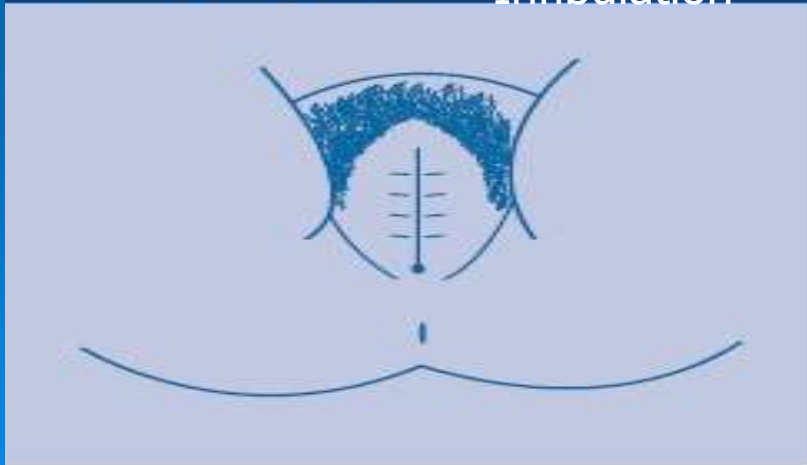
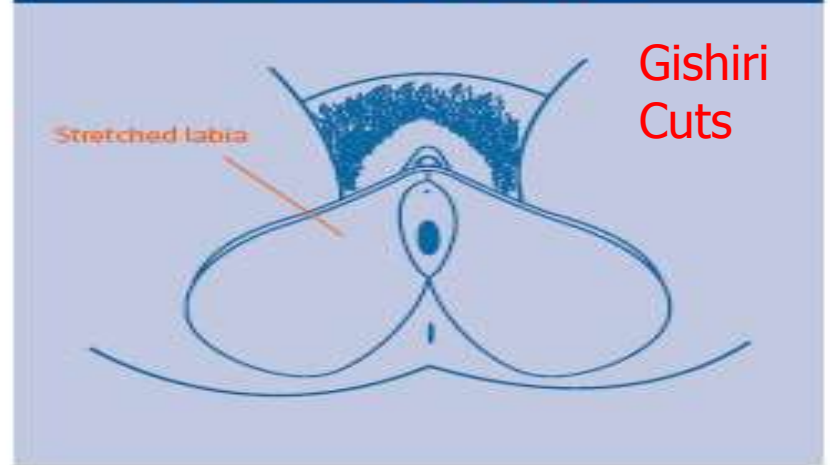


Diagram 5: An example of type 4 FGM



# Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act 2003

- This is an extension of the 1985 Female Circumcision Prohibition Act
- It is illegal for anyone to circumcise a woman or child for cultural or non-medical grounds
- The new act makes it an offence to take a UK national or resident overseas for the purpose of or to aid and abet, procure, carry out FGM.
- FGM carries a maximum penalty of 14 years



# South West Child Protection Procedures

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## Welcome to the South West Shared Child Protection Procedures website

Please note that this website uses popup windows. You will need to accept them to display the procedures.

- ▶ [How to link to this website](#)
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- ▶ [Forthcoming Events](#)
- ▶ [Local Safeguarding Boards](#)




### Latest News and Updates

Next stage in completion of child protection procedures  
Find out what additional guidance will be completed by 31st March 2007.

## South West Shared Procedures Partners

Bath & North East Somerset  
Bristol City  
Devon  
Gloucestershire

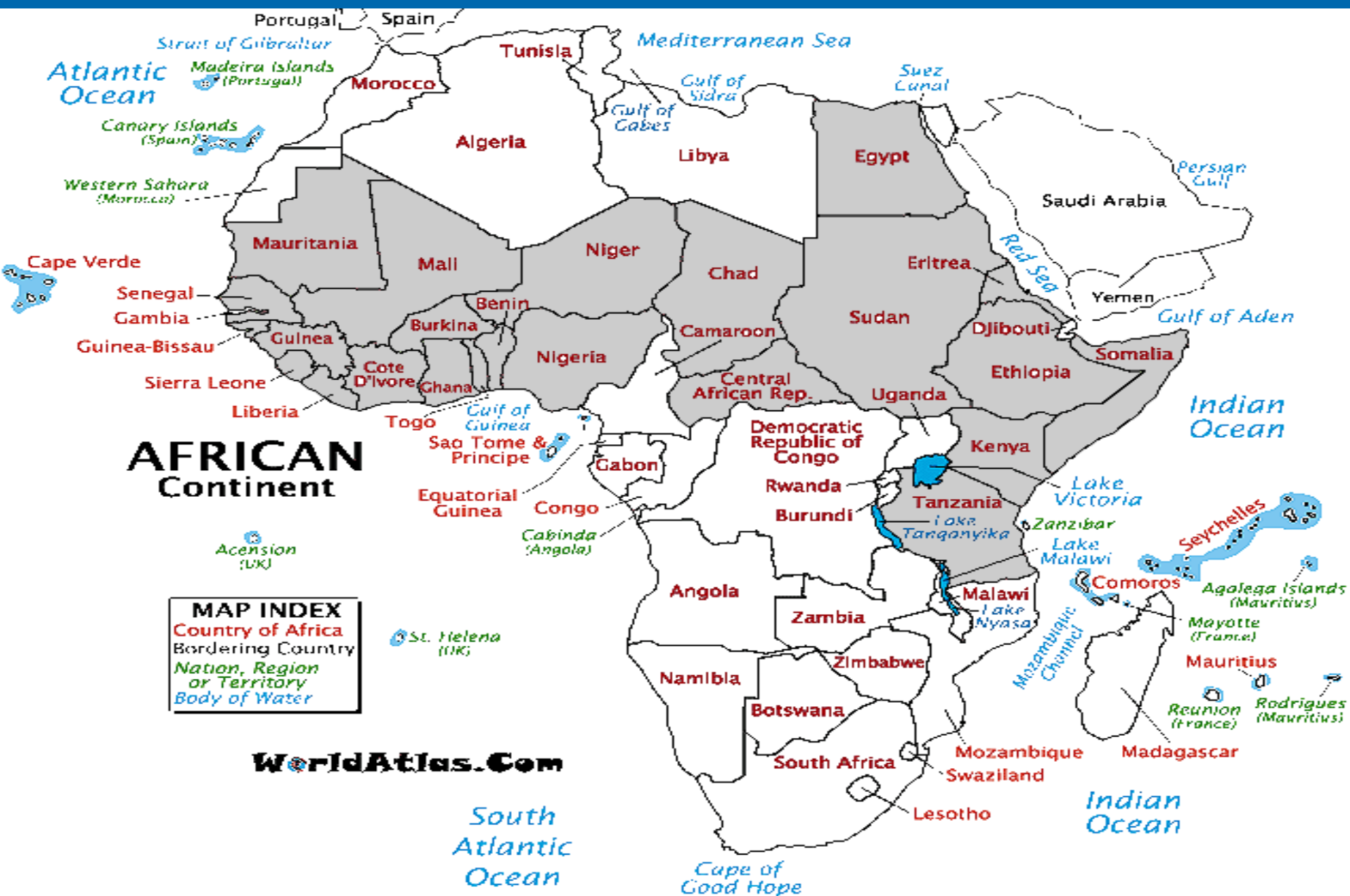
# HISTORY

- The origins of FGM are not well known,
  - Believed to have been started by men to control women's sexuality
  - Traced to ancient Egyptian aristocracy, pre-Islamic Arabs, Tsarist Russia and African tribes
  - FGM predates all religions including Islam and Christianity
- 

# WHO PRACTICES FGM?

- It is predominately practiced in:
  - About 28 African countries
  - Some Yemen and Iraq communities
  - Some Asian Muslim communities
- Now practiced in:
  - Europe
  - North and South America
  - Canada
  - Australia and New Zealandamongst immigrant communities





# JUSTIFICATION for FGM

Reasons given by communities for practicing FGM

- Custom and tradition
- Family honour
- Hygiene and cleanliness
- Preservation of virginity
- Mistaken belief that it is a religious requirement

# INSTRUMENTS



# Pictures of tools and cutter



# Health Issues Associated with FGM

There can be both physical and emotional trauma causing long term complications.

These include:

- Kidney/urinary problems
- Reproductive health
- Emotional health

(Momoh 2001 & 2005, ACCM 2006)

# Possible indicators

- Headaches
- Back pain
- Problems with sitting or walking
- Heavy painful periods
- Pain in the lower abdomen
- Vaginal infections or abscess
- Urinary tract infections
- Spend a lot of time in the toilet
- Difficulties during pregnancy and childbirth

# SOME INDICATION THAT FGM HAS TAKEN PLACE

- Behaviour changes could be associated with prolonged absence from school – especially after a return from holiday
- Spend long periods of time away from the class during the day
- A child who has undergone FGM should be seen as a child in need and offered services as appropriate. Medical assessment and therapeutic services to be considered at the strategy meeting

# SOME INDICATION THAT A CHILD IS AT RISK OF FGM

- The family comes from a community that is known to practice FGM - especially if there are elderly women present
- A conversation with a child may refer to FGM – express anxiety about a special procedure, which may include discussion of a holiday to their country of origin

(ACCM 2006)

- Parent/Guardian requests permission to travel overseas or vaccinations for overseas travel
- If a woman has already undergone FGM and it comes to the attention of any professional, consideration needs to be given to any child protection implications, e.g. for younger siblings, extended family members, and a referral made to children and young people's services or the police if appropriate.

# female genital mutilation of young girls

## is child abuse

It is illegal to practise FGM in the UK or to take girls out of the UK for FGM. There is a 14 year prison sentence for anyone performing, arranging or assisting FGM.

No religious doctrine supports FGM. It is a grave human rights violation with serious long term health consequences.

Be informed, be aware, and be ready to flag a concern.

**SAY NO TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**

Don't let it damage another generation.

[www.fco.gov.uk/fgm](http://www.fco.gov.uk/fgm)



Home Office

Department of Health

100% FGM Free

Department of Education



100% FGM Free  
Metropolitan Police  
[www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)

# **Female Genital Mutilation**



**Factsheet for  
Professionals**

# **Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting**



**Community  
Support &  
Information**

# TERMINOLOGY

- You come from a country where girls or women are circumcised –
  - are you planning this for your daughter?
  - do you think you have gone through this?
- Are you closed/stitched/open?
- Has anything been done to you down there or on your bottom?
- Are you aware there is a law in the UK against circumcising girls?

# Bristol Peer research on FGM

- ‘ there are a very few people who are aware about the rules and regulations related to FGM in the UK and most of our community do not understand completely and do not have the full information about the rules of the law and it’s consequences if FGM is done to their child’

- ‘ it has been written clearly in big font in Charlotte Keel Health centre that if we do FGM to our daughters they will charge us a lot of money and send us to prison!’
- ‘ how will they know I did that (FGM). Even if they examine her, I can say that we went to our family in our own country and they did it to her without my knowing. Who will they persecute then? Will they prosecute my mother or my husbands mother back home?’

# How Does This Affect Bristol?

- There are 1126 Somalian girls and 320 African girls in Bristol schools
- There are other ethnic groups at similar risk
- There have been no convictions for FGM in Bristol or the UK

