

FGM Factsheet

Links to organisations featured in *Airing Pain* Programme 71

[NHS Specialist Services for Female Genital Mutilation](#)

valentinenkoyo.com

www.fgmhopeclinic.co.uk

www.forwarduk.org.uk

More information about FGM

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is illegal in the UK. It's also illegal to take a British national or permanent resident abroad for FGM or to help someone trying to do this.

<https://www.gov.uk/female-genital-mutilation-help-advice>

What happens if I report that a girl has either undergone FGM or is at risk of FGM in the UK?

If you report that someone is at risk or has undergone FGM this will be treated confidentially. Professionals are required to treat any reported case of FGM as a child protection issue and start a child protection referral. This means that the local authority's children's services will treat this as a serious concern and organise a meeting to assess the case and find ways to best protect the child. This investigation will also try to find out if other siblings in the family are at risk of FGM. Parents will be part of this meeting to discuss the concerns. A girl will NOT automatically be taken away from her home. This will only happen in rare cases where the parents fail to guarantee that they will not carry out FGM on their daughter. [FORWARD](#) (Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development)

Help and Advice

[Contact the police](#) if you think that a girl or young woman is in immediate danger of FGM.

[NSPCC](#) FGM helpline is a free 24-hour service. Please ring if you are concerned that a child's welfare is at risk because of FGM and are seeking advice, information or support. Though callers' details can remain anonymous, any information that could protect a child from abuse will be passed to the police or social services.

You can search for [help and advice in your area](#) if you're worried that someone is in danger of FGM or if you're a victim of FGM.

You can also contact:

- [the Safeguarding Children Board at your local council](#)
- [NHS specialist clinics for FGM](#)

[FORWARD](#) is an African Diaspora women's organisation with an agenda to safeguard the dignity, health and human rights of African girls and women in UK and Africa.

For more information on services available and one-to-one support you can call FORWARD on 0208 960 4000. They are open Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm or email FORWARD at support@forwarduk.org.uk.

Further resources

- www.doeve.org
- www.thegirlgeneration.org
- www.manorgardenscentre.org/health-advocacy
- <http://www.mayacentre.org.uk>

Related Pain Concern resources

- [Sex and chronic pain](#)
- [A guide to managing pain](#)