

APPENDICES

LEGISLATION

[Human Rights Act 1998](#)
[Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)
[Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003](#)
[Equality Act 2010](#)
[Worker Protection \(Amendment of Equality Act 2010\) Bill](#)
[Serious Crime Act 2015](#)
[Children and Social Work Act 2017](#)
[Data Protection Act 2018](#)
[Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#)
[Health and Care Act 2022](#)
[Police, Crime and Sentencing Act 2022](#)
[Online Safety Act 2024](#)
[Victims and Prisoners Act 2024](#)

NATIONAL STRATEGIES

[NHSE Strategic direction for sexual assault and abuse services 2018-2023](#)
[End-to-End Rape Review 2021](#)
[Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy 2021](#)
[Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2021](#)
[Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan](#)
[Victims Funding Strategy](#)
[End-to-end progress Report 2022](#)

NATIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

[Child Sexual Abuse Centre of Expertise Data improvement tool](#)
[Commissioning Framework for Child Sexual Abuse \(CSA\)](#)
[Developing and leading trauma-informed practice](#)
[Domestic Abuse: A toolkit for employers.](#)
[Home Office Standards for Domestic Abuse perpetrator interventions](#)
[Honour-based abuse – advice for first responders](#)
[Mandatory reporting of FGM 2015](#)
[Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation](#)
[National Framework for working with Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and support services](#)
[National operating model for the investigation of rape and other sexual offences](#)
[NSPCC Harmful Sexual Behaviour framework](#)
[Position statement on male victims of crime considered in the cross-government strategy on ending Violence Against Women and Girls](#)
[Public health approaches to reducing violence](#)
[Sector Sustainability Shared Standards](#)
[Separate and single-sex service providers: a guide on the Equality Act sex and gender reassignment provisions](#)
[The Respect Standards - Accreditation framework for safe, effective, and survivor focused work with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse in the UK](#)
[The Violence Against Women and Girls National Statement of Expectations](#)
[Trauma-informed approaches to supporting people experiencing multiple disadvantage](#)
[Violence against women and girls commissioning toolkit](#)
[Virginity testing and hymenoplasty: multi-agency guidance](#)
[Women's Aid Domestic Abuse standards](#)
[Working definition of trauma-informed practice](#)
[Working together to safeguard children](#)
[Workplace support for victims of Domestic Abuse](#)

REGIONAL STANDARDS, STRATEGIES AND FRAMEWORKS

[Competencies, Training and Development Framework for Tackling Exploitation and Abuse](#)
[West Midlands Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault and Abuse standards](#)
[West Midlands Sexual Assault and Abuse strategy](#)

DEFINITIONS

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

UK Government definition

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a procedure where the female genital organs are injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. It is frequently a very traumatic and violent act for the victim and can cause harm in many ways. The practice can cause severe pain and there may be immediate and/or long-term health consequences, including mental health problems, difficulties in childbirth, causing danger to the child and mother; and/or death.¹

World Health Organisation definition

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.²

VIRGINITY TESTING

Virginity testing, also referred to as hymen, '2-finger' or vaginal examination, is an inspection of the female genitalia, intended to determine whether a woman or girl has had vaginal sexual intercourse.

For the purposes of the Health and Care Act 2022³, virginity testing is any examination (with or without contact) of the female genitalia intended to establish if vaginal intercourse has taken place. This is irrespective of whether consent has been given.

The position of the World Health Organization and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) is that virginity tests have no scientific merit or clinical indication as there is no known examination that can prove whether a woman has had vaginal intercourse.

HYMENOPLASTY

Hymenoplasty is a procedure undertaken to reconstruct a hymen. There are a number of different techniques to achieve but it generally involves stitching hymenal remnants together at the vaginal opening, or surgically reconstructing a hymen using vaginal tissue. The aim of the procedure is to ensure that a woman bleeds the next time she has intercourse to give the impression that she has no history of vaginal intercourse. There is no guarantee that this will fully reform the hymen or cause bleeding when penetration is attempted.

Hymenoplasty is not the same as other procedures that could be performed on the hymen for clinical reasons (for example, surgery to treat an imperforate hymen to allow menstrual blood to escape).

For further VAWG definitions please see appendices of the [Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault and Abuse Standards](#).

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/613f26d5e90e07044435c949/6.7166_HO_FBIS_BN_O_Leaflet_A4_FINAL_080321_WEB.pdf

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation>

³ [Health and Care Act 2022](#)

SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE LOCAL/REGIONAL SERVICES

- A full list of support services available to victims-survivors across the West Midlands can be accessed via the [No Excuse for Abuse](#) website.
- Regionally commissioned services for support for victims can be found via the OPCC website [here](#).
- Further information on pathways for support locally can be found at specialist or Safeguarding Child, Safeguarding Adult or Safeguarding Partnership websites: for [Walsall](#), [Wolverhampton](#), [Dudley](#), [Sandwell Children](#), [Sandwell Adult](#), [Birmingham Children](#), [Birmingham Adult](#), [Solihull](#), [Coventry Children](#) and [Coventry Adult](#). There is also the West Midlands Safeguarding [Children](#) and [Adult](#) Regional partnership websites.
- In addition there are resources available on [Birmingham Against FGM](#) and [Ending FGM in Coventry Steering Group](#) websites.
- You can contact West Midlands Police by calling 101/999 or by accessing the website for further guidance and support [here](#).

To find FGM support near you, you can also try the [FGM help and advice postcode finder](#).

Specialist clinics West Midlands Pregnant Women

The clinic for pregnant women is held in the Maternity Department at City Hospital, Birmingham. Community or antenatal midwives will refer women into this particular clinic.

Non-Pregnant Women

The clinic for non-pregnant women is held at Summerfield Primary Care Centre, in Heath Street, Winson Green, which is near City Hospital. Women can self-refer or be referred by their GP. Alternatively, anyone can refer a woman to the clinic. The clinic was launched in November 2019. Read more about the launch [here](#).

To refer to the clinic for non-pregnant women email swbh.summerfieldfgm@nhs.net

This [link](#) provides details of the eight community-based National FGM Support Clinics, for adult women who are not pregnant and live in other areas of England.

NATIONAL SERVICES

The Home Office [FGM Unit](#):

- provides outreach support to local areas to support them in developing their local response to fighting FGM and to raise awareness of the unit
- identifies and highlights examples of effective practice across local areas and professional groups
- promotes (and provides on request) available FGM resources
- provides a free e-learning course in FGM, which anybody can take: [Recognising and preventing FGM](#)
- works with the police, Border Force, the Crown Prosecution Service and the College of Policing to improve the identification and prosecution of offenders
- maintains an overview of all Government work to fight FGM and works closely with the voluntary and community sector, survivors and professionals to develop cross-cutting policies and processes.

If you are interested in receiving any outreach support or have any other queries, please email the FGM unit at fgmenquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk. Please note that the unit cannot deal with individual cases of FGM.

National FGM helpline

The [NSPCC](#) operates a free [national FGM helpline](#), which offers guidance to thousands of people, including professionals. The FGM helpline is staffed by specialised practitioners, who are all trained to identify the risk of FGM. The helpline can offer advice and support: if you are worried about a child who is at risk of FGM, if somebody has already undergone an FGM procedure or if you have any questions regarding FGM.

The helpline is available seven days a week between the following hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 10pm and Saturday and Sunday 9pm to 6pm. You can call and choose to remain anonymous on 0800 028 3550 or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk.

- The [FGM National Clinical Group](#) is a UK charity that works with women who have been affected by FGM and other related difficulties.
- The [National FGM Centre](#) supports children and young people affected by FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief. It has a free online knowledge hub, a directory of FGM services available in the UK, and offers professional training and development.
- The [Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development \(FORWARD\)](#) is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) that works to advance and protect the sexual and reproductive health and human rights of African girls and women. Telephone 020 8960 4000
- [Africans Unite Against Child Abuse \(AFRUCA\)](#)
- [Agency for Culture and Change Management UK \(ACCM UK\)](#)
- [BAWSO](#) - email info@bawso.org.uk, telephone 029 20644 633 or 24-hour helpline 0800 731 8147
- [The Dahlia Project FGM Support and Counselling Service](#) - telephone 020 7281 8970
- [Daughters of Eve](#) - text them on 0798 303 0488
- [Equality Now](#) - telephone 020 7304 6902
- [Freedom Charity](#) - telephone 0845 607 0133 or text 4freedom to 88802
- [IKWRO – Women's Rights Organisation](#) - telephone 020 7920 646
- [Karma Nirvana](#) - National [honour-based abuse helpline](#), run by Karma Nirvana: 0800 5999 247
- [National Health Service](#)
- [The Orchid Project](#)
- [The Vavengers](#) - email info@thevavengers.co.uk
- [WHO World Health Organisation – FGM](#)

FURTHER RESOURCES

Petals - the UK's first FGM web app for young people

The app gives advice on how to get support and deal with FGM. It can also be used by people who want to find out more about Female Genital Mutilation and how it might affect them and others they may know.

[Download the Petals app](#)

Petals for Professionals

Petals for Professionals is an online resource that explains the legal responsibilities of professionals and provides information on where to get further help and advice.

[Download the Petals for Professionals app](#)

'Let's talk FGM' app: Created by Joanne McEwan, a public health nurse at Oxford Health. Joanne regularly came across survivors of female genital mutilation (FGM) survivors during her work as a health visitor in Oxford, and she worked with campaigners and FGM survivors to produce a tool to enable discussions about FGM.

- [National FGM Centre Assessment tool](#)
- [National FGM Centre - direct work toolkit](#)
- [Female Genital Mutilation and its Management \(Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists 2015\)](#)
- [Female Genital Mutilation: Resource Pack](#)
- [Female Genital Mutilation Risk and Safeguarding – Guidance for Health Professionals](#)
- [Female Genital Mutilation: Guidance for Schools](#)
- [Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation – procedural information](#)
- [Fact sheet on mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [FGM Protection Orders: factsheet](#)
- [Virginity testing and hymenoplasty: multi-agency guidance](#) (Department of Health and Social Care)
- Fact sheets, with translations, for communities on mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation - [Fact sheet on mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- WHO has produced publications on [female genital mutilation \(FGM\) and harmful practices](#).
- [Right to Remain No Recourse To Public Funds toolkit](#) to support the additional barriers that may impact migrant women and girls and their access to support.

FGM PROTECTION ORDER'S (FGMPO)

Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders (FGMPOs) offer a legal means to protect and safeguard victims and potential victims of FGM. FGMPOs are granted by a court and are unique to each case. They contain conditions to protect a victim or potential victim from FGM. This could include, for example, surrendering a passport to prevent the person at risk from being taken abroad for FGM or requirements that no one arranges for FGM to be performed on the person being protected.

Who can apply for an order?

- The person who has had or is at risk of FGM;
- a local authority; or
- any other person with the permission of the court (for example, the police, a teacher, a charity or a family member).

Adults or children (those under 18) can apply for an FGMPO. Children may have a 'next friend' or someone to assist them, but do not have to if they have a legal representative or if the court agrees.

The contact details of the person applying for a FGMPO can be kept confidential if required.

Where can I apply for an order?

An application for a FGMPO can be made at a Family Court in England and Wales. The person completing the application should read the guidance first. This guidance is available in Amharic, Arabic, English, Farsi, French, Somali, Swahili, Tigrinya, Turkish, Urdu and Welsh.

More information on applications can be found here: [FGMPO Factsheet](#)

TRAINING

- E-learning for all professionals (including teachers, police, border force staff, and health visitors), developed by the Home Office, is available at www.fgmelearning.co.uk.
- Health Education England offer e-learning, free to access by health and social care professionals, at www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/female-genital-mutilation/
- A new learning resource has been developed by the [University of Nottingham School of Health Sciences](#). Within this resource, women share their experiences of survivorship following FGM and discuss the culture factors associated with FGM. The resource can be viewed [here](#).