



Female Genital Mutilation

Peterborough and
Cambridgeshire Local
Safeguarding Children Boards

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With kind permission from Dr Emilia Wawrzowicz.

WHO Definition

Comprises 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.

Violence against women and girls

Immediate Complications

- Death
- Haemorrhage
- Infection
- Pain
- Injury to other organs causing fistulae
- Urinary retention due to pain and swelling

Long Term Complications

- Failure to heal
- Recurrent abscess, dermoid/inclusion cysts, keloid
- Recurrent urinary infections
- Blood borne infections
- Gynaecological
- Obstetric
- Psychological - PTSD



Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

- Article 24 states:

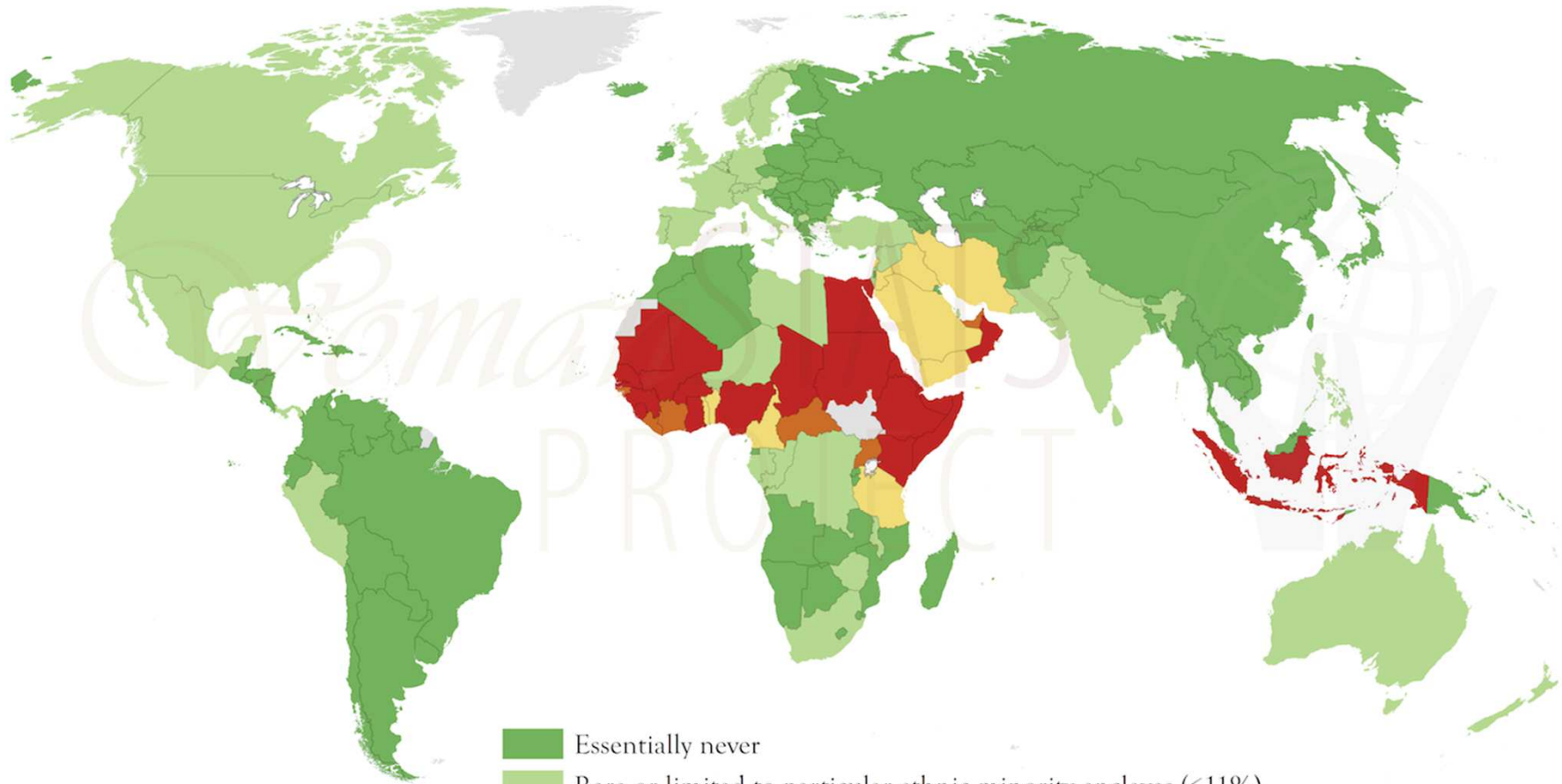
“Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children ... ”

- Article 19 states:

“...protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation....”

Prevalence of Female Genital Cutting

Scaled 2011



- Essentially never
- Rare or limited to particular ethnic minority enclaves ($\leq 11\%$)
- 11-25% of women have had their genitals cut
- 26-50% of women have had their genitals cut
- More than half of women have had their genitals cut
- No Data

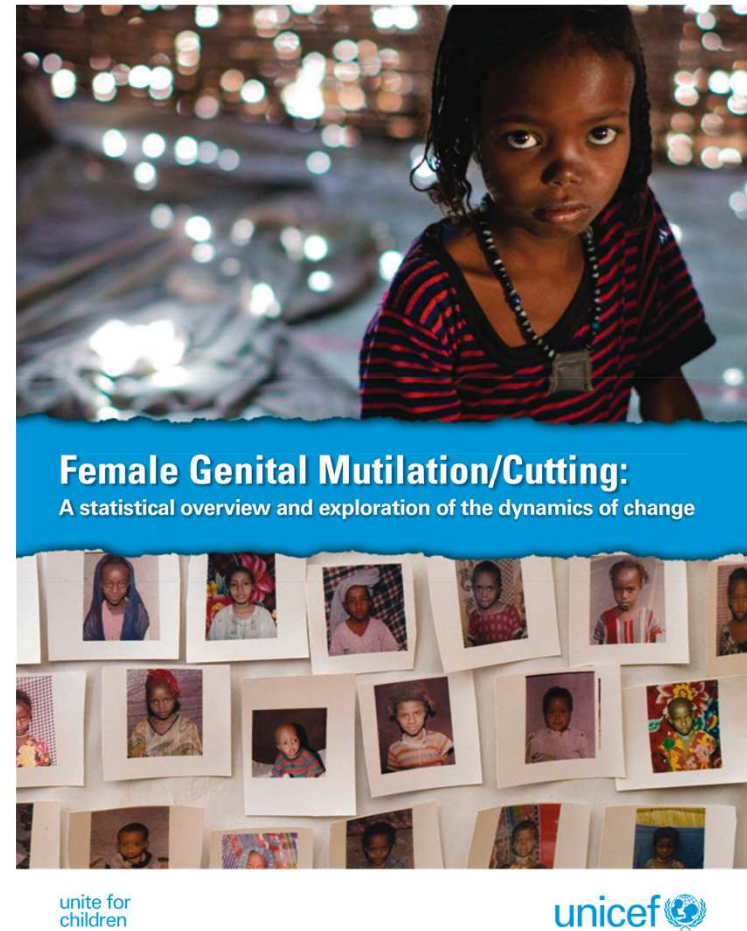
(This scale includes both mild and severe forms of cutting.)

Reasons for FGM

- Social obligation/ acceptance/ rite of passage
- Reducing sexual desire, fear of clitoris and sexuality, keeping virginity
- Religious requirement
- Readiness for marriage and adulthood
- Purify the body/clean, aesthetics
- Protects against material want

Unicef report July 2013

125 Million women and girls
worldwide



Types of FGM

Different regions and communities practice various forms of mutilation. Some forms of cutting are quite common and they are classified as:

Type 1 - Clitoridectomy:



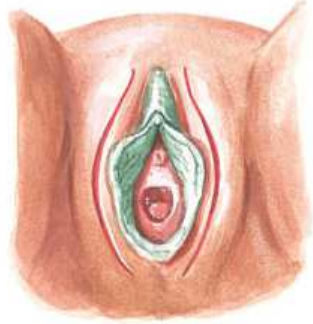
Clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris (a small, sensitive and erectile part of the female genitals) and, in very rare cases, only the prepuce (the fold of skin surrounding the clitoris)

Type 2 - Excision:

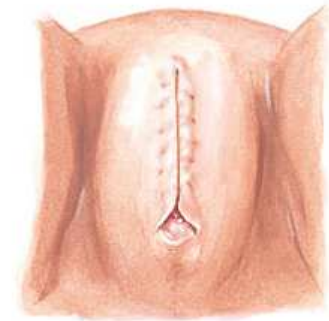
Excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (the labia are the 'lips' that surround the vagina).



Type 3 - Infibulation:



Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal. The seal is formed by cutting and sewing over the outer, labia, with or without removal of the clitoris or inner labia



Type 4 - Other:

Other: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g. pricking, piercing, incising, scraping, stretching and cauterising the genital area

Influences

UNICEF 2013

Protective factors

- Discussing with husband/friend
- Knowing law has been/will be implemented
- TV, media, global debate
- Men's attitude and knowledge
- Knowing an uncut person

Risk factors

- Mother or sister cut
- Isolated mother
- Paternal grandmother is influential
- Little information and discussion about FGM
- Communities have impression it is not taken seriously by statutory sector

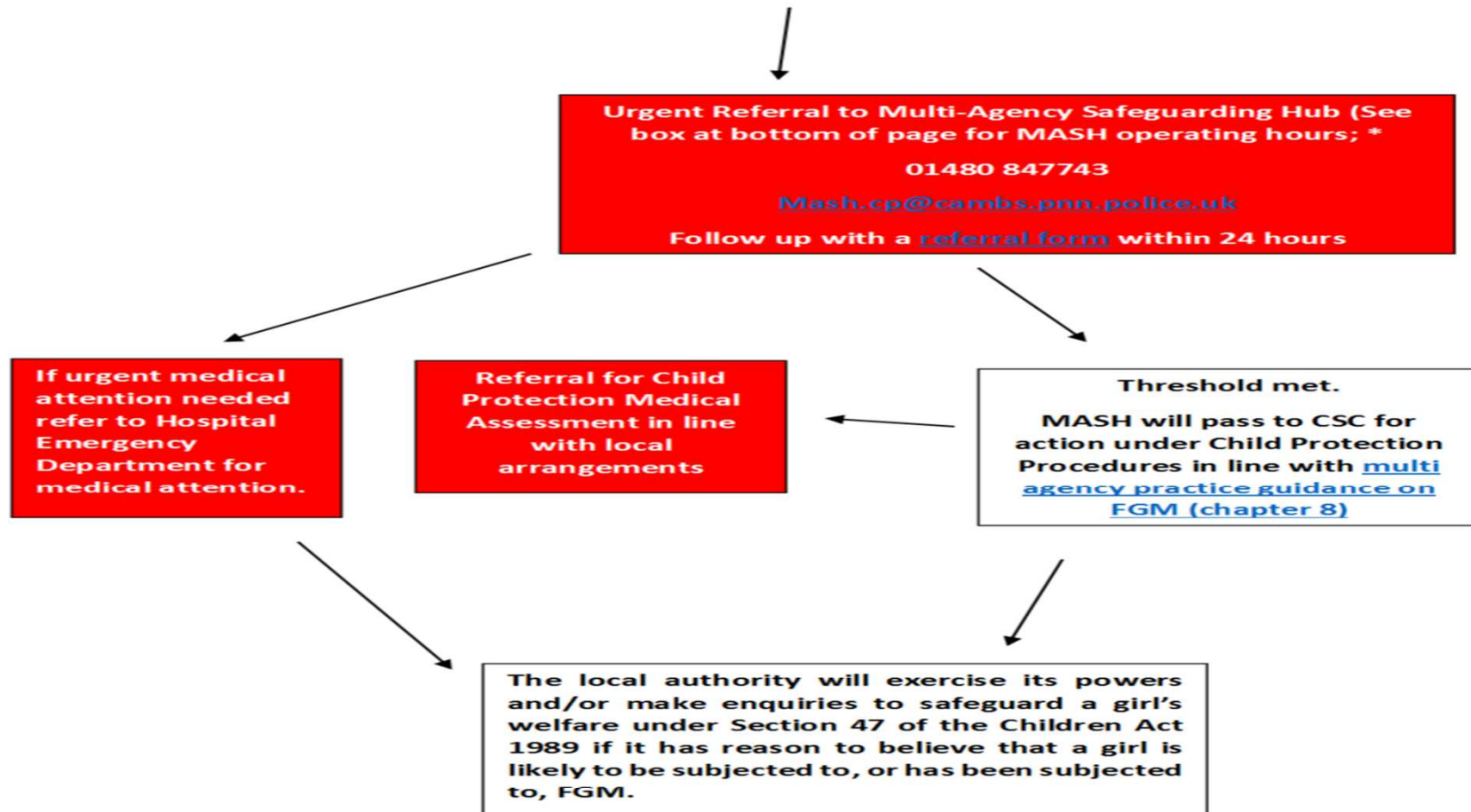
Recommendations

1. Treat it as Child Abuse
2. Document and collect information
3. Share that information systematically
4. Empower frontline professionals
5. Identify girls at risk and refer to social care
6. Report cases of FGM
7. Hold frontline professionals accountable
8. Empower and support affected girls and young women (both those at risk and survivors)
9. Implement awareness campaign

Flowchart 1

Do you suspect a Child / Young Person has undergone FGM

If Child cut (or suspected)



*MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) operating hours

Monday-Friday 8am-8pm

Saturday-Sunday 8am-5pm

Bank Holidays 8am-4pm

All other times contact the Emergency Duty Team 01733 234724

Legal status UK

- Illegal since the 1985 Female Circumcision Prohibition Act
- In 2003 an update to this Act extended legislation to criminalise any attempt to take a UK national or permanent resident overseas for circumcision or to “aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM”



Current



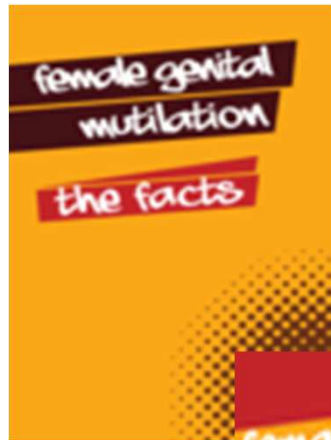
- February 6th 2014 marked International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM
- Measures to combat FGM
 - Ministerial sign up across government to end FGM
 - Policy ending Violence Against Women and Girls in UK published.

Don't be afraid to ask

- “Do you come from a community that practices cutting?”
- “Have you been cut?”



Support Materials



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fgm-support-materials>



Free E learning

<https://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/>



References

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- UNICEF, Female Genital Mutilation : a statistical overview and exploration of the dynamics of change, 2013
- WHO, progress report, An update on WHO’s work on Female Genital mutilation, FGM, 2011
- AA Zayed et al, Abusing female children by circumcision is continued in Egypt, Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine, 2012, 19:196-200.
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- WHO ‘Female Genital Mutilation Factsheet 241’ 2013
- Woman Stats Project Prevalence of Female Genital Cutting scaled 2011 <http://womanstats.org/newmapspage.html>
- FORWARD, A statistical Study to estimate the Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales, 2007.
- Daughters of Eve <http://www.dofeve.org/types-of-fgm.html>

LSCB's



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