Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Schools Resource Pack

Introduction

There are 24,000 girls under the age of 15 who are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK. FGM is a practice that can drastically affect a girl’s health and well-being. Therefore FGM is, not only a growing concern in the UK, but is also illegal and classed as a form of child abuse. As such is it essential that girls are not only protected from the practice but also that girls who have undergone the practice are supported. Schools play a vital role in this.

Pupils who fear they may be at risk of FGM often come to the attention of or seek support from a teacher or other educational professionals before they seek help from the police or social services. Therefore schools and educational professionals are ideally situated to raise awareness of the practice and also to safeguard and support girls, as FGM is predominantly happening to minors (under the age of 16), schools and colleges are ideally placed to identify girls who are both at risk or have undergone the practice.

Although FGM is surrounded by much cultural sensitivity it is essential that the taboo is broken and that spaces are created that allow for safe and open discussions. It is important that all young people have their awareness raised about this human rights issue. It is also essential that girls and young people (particularly those from communities where FGM occurs) are able to discuss the issue, know how to access support and learn how they can help keep themselves and their peers safe.

“Educational establishments should aim to create an ‘open environment’ where pupils feel comfortable to discuss the problems that they are facing – an environment where FGM can be discussed openly and support and counselling are provided routinely. Pupils need to know that they will be listened to and their concerns are taken seriously”

Multi-Agency Guidelines on Female Genital Mutilation

The FGM Schools Resource Pack aims to facilitate effective school wide engagement on FGM. The FGM Schools Resource Pack has been developed drawing on the experience of FORWARD’s Schools Programme - both in delivering FGM sessions as well as supporting schools and other educational professionals to develop FGM resources. The Pack includes resources to enable the safe and sensitive teaching of FGM; support resources for young people and additional information for teachers to prepare them to effectively safeguard and support girls and young women. It is a holistic package that has been developed and designed to be youth friendly, age appropriate and culturally sensitive.

The key role that teachers and educational professionals play in preventing FGM, and supporting girls, has been clearly emphasised through various campaign organisations including the NSPCC and the recent Guardian Campaign on FGM. However our experience indicates that schools and teachers need support to enable them to effectively engage on this issue. We hope that this FGM Teaching Resource Package will provide that support.
FORWARD is piloting our FGM Schools Resource Pack. We are providing a limited number of copies to schools, colleges, teachers and local authorities in the hope they will use the resource. We will be piloting the FGM Schools Resource Pack between the 19th of February and the 1st of August 2014. We will then follow up with the selected schools, colleges and education professionals to see how our FGM Schools Resource Pack can be made even better.

We are keen to improve our FGM Schools Resource Pack and this is only possible by getting feedback from the people and professionals who use it. Your, your feedback is essential for us to be able to continue providing resources for schools to engage on FGM. Please take the time to think about these questions and complete the evaluation form.

Someone from FORWARD will be calling you to follow up on how you and your colleagues found the FGM Schools Resource Pack.

Alternatively you can complete the evaluation forms enclosed in the FGM Schools Resource Pack and return to FORWARD.

Youth Programme, FORWARD, Suite 2.1, Chandelier Building, 8 Scrubs Lane, NW10 6RB

To request an electronic form or to submit your completed evaluation form electronically, please contact: youth@forwarduk.org.uk
# FGM Schools Resource Pack Evaluation Form

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
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<td>Name of Local Authority/School/College (delete as appropriate):</td>
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**Did you use the FGM Schools Resource Pack?**
- Yes [ ]
- No [ ][ ]

If not please explain:

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# FGM Lesson Plan Evaluation Form

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<th>Year Group session was delivered to:</th>
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**Name of School/College (delete as appropriate):**

**Was the FGM lesson taught over**
- 1 session
- 2 sessions

**Which activities were useful?**

**Were there any activities which were NOT useful?**
- Yes
- No

If activities were not useful: please detail which and explain why.

**Is there anything you would change in the FGM Lesson Plan?**
- Yes
- No

If yes please explain.

**Is there anything you would add to the FGM Lesson Plan?**
- Yes
- No

If yes, please detail.

**Was there sufficient background information for you to teach the FGM Lesson Plan?**
- Yes
- No

If not, what would you like to be included?

**How did the pupils respond to the FGM Lesson?**

**General Feedback?**


**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Schools Resource Pack**

**Pack Contents and How to Use**

The FGM Schools Resource Pack enables whole school engagement on FGM on prevention, safeguarding and support level. Resources are included for teachers, pupils and schools to use more widely. The FGM Schools Resource Pack is intended to be the first step in breaking the silence around FGM and lead to girls that are healthier and safer. The FGM Schools Resource Pack is intended to be used in secondary schools.

FGM Schools Resource Pack aims include:

- Equipping teachers with the knowledge to better respond to FGM in their school - both in a safeguarding and support capacity.
- Supporting schools to create an ‘open and safe’ environment where girls and young people know they will receive support around FGM.
- Raising pupils’ awareness of FGM.

The following resources are included:

**A. FGM Lesson Plan:** This comprehensive and adaptable lesson plan includes guidelines and preparation information for teachers who are teaching the lesson. It also includes detailed notes for how to teach the lesson. The interactive lesson consists of various age appropriate activities. A sample of all the materials and teaching aids to deliver the lesson are included. Additional copies may need to be made to teach the lesson.

   I. **Materials and Teaching Aids:**
      i. **Resource A:** Female External Genitalia – unlabelled
      ii. **Resource B:** Female External Genitalia – labelled
      iii. **Resource C:** FGM Statements – Questions
      iv. **Resource E:** Types of FGM Cards
      v. **Resource F:** Character Statement Cards
      vi. **Resource G:** Health Complications
      vii. **Resource J:** Support Spaces Cards

**B. FGM Resources for Pupils:**

   I. **FGM Safety Card:** This card provides quick contact information for support services for girls who are affected or at risk of FGM in a discreet and compact format.

   II. **Young People Speak Out postcard:** This card provides information about FORWARD’s Youth Programme, and can be made available to young people who wish to get involved in the campaign to end FGM.

**C. FGM Resources for Teachers:**

   I. **FGM Information:**
      i. **FGM Factsheet:** This sheet provides quick information on FGM, which can be distributed to staff.
ii. **FGM Multi-Agency Guidelines:** This includes the pages of the Multi-Agency guidelines most relevant for school staff. It is advisable to make this information available for all members of staff. Safeguarding leads in particular should be familiar with these guidelines.

iii. **FGM Additional Resources Information Sheet:** These resources and links provide additional information about FGM.

II. **Support and Safeguarding:**

i. **FGM Support Organisations:** This is a list of organisations that offer support and information on FGM.

ii. **FGM Specialist Clinics:** This is a list of clinics that offer specialist medical services on FGM. Some clinics are able to offer services to young women, and some do not require a referral from a GP. Contact information for each clinic is included, and FORWARD is also able to offer advice on accessing medical services.

iii. **FORWARD Support Services Postcard:** This postcard describes the support services offered at FORWARD.

D. **FGM Resources for Schools:**

I. **FORWARD Schools Services Poster:** This details FORWARD’s Schools Programme; the services on offer and how your school can contact FORWARD’s Youth Programme.

II. **FGM Awareness Poster:** This poster can be displayed to reach girls in the school who may be affected by or at risk of FGM. You may find it useful to hang it in toilets, or other places where it is likely to be seen.

III. **Youth Friendly FGM Resources:**

i. **Information Support and Services Guide:** This is a youth friendly resource for young people. It provides information about FGM, and information about accessing support services. You may find it useful to display or distribute this resource in a way that makes the information easily accessible for young women.

ii. **FGM Frequently Asked Questions:** This is a youth friendly resource for young people that provides answers to frequently asked questions about FGM and more challenging questions around FGM.

iii. **16 Ways to Help End FGM:** This is a youth friendly resource with small actions that young people can take to get involved in the FGM campaign. This resource is particularly suitable for older year groups (Year 11 and 6th Form) and for pupils who want to take local action on FGM.

iv. **Think Again – DVD:** Is a short film created by young people in London as a way to raise awareness of FGM. It is set in a school and is a very safe way of raising awareness of FGM among pupils but also acts as a starting point for teachers to consider their safeguarding duties regarding FGM and can engage them in useful discussion.
Forward (Foundation for Women’s Health, Research and Development) Schools’ Programme offers a comprehensive and wide range of services for schools. All of our School’s Services are delivered in a sensitive and age appropriate way by Forward facilitators who are experienced in working with young people on FGM. Our school’s services are tailored and adaptable to meet the various needs of schools. All sessions are planned taking into consideration the audience we are delivering to.

Schools play a vital role in protecting and supporting girls at risk of or affected by FGM. Young people should also be empowered and engaged to know about issues that could be affecting them, their peers and their communities. Our work with schools is focused on awareness raising and the role that everyone can play in supporting girls and ending the practice. Pupils are therefore equipped to be able to support themselves, peers and siblings who may be at risk of or affected by FGM.

Forward’s Schools Services include:

- **Staff Training on FGM**: this includes basic FGM information, identifying and safeguarding girls at risk, providing support for those affected by FGM.
- **Student Awareness Sessions**: these sessions are interactive and use the FGM lesson plan. Sessions are tailored to individual classes and year groups.
- **Youth Friendly Resources**: These are available for schools to use. This includes the FGM Schools Resource Pack.
- **Outreach or Drop-in Sessions**: These are spaces for young people to gain more information. They can be incorporated into existing services, a stall at a health fair or can be adapted to a school’s needs.
- **One-to-one Support** for girls and young women affected by FGM.
- **Advice and Guidance** for schools on how to respond and engage on FGM.
- Help for pupils wanting to take further action on FGM.

Many of these services are offered free of charge.

Forward’s Schools Programme has delivered (in the past 18 months)

- 127 **student awareness sessions** in schools and colleges throughout London.
- 27 **schools and colleges** have been engaged on the topic of FGM.
- Over 1,500 **pupils** received FGM awareness
- 10 **staff trainings**
- Delivered sessions in **17 London boroughs** including - Greenwich, Lambeth, Hounslow, Westminster, Ealing, Newham and Haringey.

Forward’s School’s Programme aims to:

- Equip teachers with the knowledge to better respond to FGM in their schools.
- Support schools to create an ‘open and safe’ environment where girls and young people know they will receive support around FGM issues.
- Raise pupils’ awareness of FGM. Specifically:
  - Pupils understand what FGM is
  - Pupils understand that FGM is harmful
  - Pupils know that FGM is illegal in the UK and abroad
  - Pupils know where they can get help and support
Feedback from pupils has been very positive and they have expressed that they have learnt a lot and have an understanding of FGM.

‘I learnt that FGM is a terrible thing to do whether it’s type 1, 2 or 3. The fact that you guys are working towards changing it is such amazing work. I didn’t even know about this. Thank you for the lesson!’

When asked what pupils can do with the information some pupils have said:

- ‘If I had a friend with this problem with things that I learnt today I would help my friend with doctor or police’
- ‘One thing someone could do is make sure that there is somewhere for victims of FGM to and talk about it e.g. youth club or a specific centre’
- ‘I’m going to talk about it on the social networking sites so I can provide information for the people that don’t know about it’
- ‘One thing I can do it to be aware it happens in the UK and to write to David Cameron to ask him to do so some more work on it. I would ask him to get more involved with the FORWARD organisation’

Feedback from teachers has also been positive, one teacher at a school said:

‘I spoke yesterday with my class about the sessions – and the AMOUNT of information between them that they came with is excellent – I was so proud and impressed with them and that is all down to what you taught them. They even taught me some things I wasn’t aware of. Despite my initial reservations, I would definitely like to have you back to our school… I really do think it is valuable for the pupils and something they would know very little about otherwise.’

**Case Study of FORWARD’s Schools Work**

**How did you first hear about FORWARD?**
I first heard about FORWARD when researching Female Genital Mutilation for a sixth form class who needed to study an issue of global importance which had both ethical and economic implications. The website was really informative and it seemed right to ask FORWARD if they were willing to send a representative to talk to our pupils directly about FGM.

**What surprised you most about working with FORWARD?**
Our speaker was really honest and open with the pupils. There was no embarrassment or difficulty and they thoroughly enjoyed her visit. The level of literature presented by FORWARD and the genuine interest shown in getting the pupils involved was really inspiring. Our speaker gave a significant amount of her time to engage with pupils both as a large audience and in a small group over dinner.

**Why are you teaching your pupils about FGM?**
Because it is an issue of global importance and unless it is addressed in schools it will continue to go unnoticed in some sections of society which will not help to eradicate the practice.

Interested in FORWARD’s Schools Programme, want to know more information or to get these services in your school contact us on:
youth@forwarduk.org.uk;
0208 960 4000 – ask to speak to the Youth Programme
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Schools Resource Pack

Additional Information and Resources on FGM for Educational Professionals

- **Female Genital Mutilation: The Facts Leaflet**
  This pocket-sized leaflet provides facts on the practice of FGM and covers: the communities most at risk; signs that a girl may have undergone FGM; what to do if you think someone is at risk as well as what to do if you think you are at risk. The link to the pdf version is available here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/261326/FGM_leaflet.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/261326/FGM_leaflet.pdf)

- **Statement Opposing Female Genital Mutilation**
  This pocket-sized document sets out the law and the potential criminal penalties that can be used against those allowing FGM to take place. It can be discretely carried in a purse, wallet or slipped into the back of a passport. It is supported and signed by Ministers from the Home Office, Department of Health, Ministry of Justice, Department for Education and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The statement is available in English, as well as Amharic, Arabic, Farsi, French, Somali, Swahili, Tigrinya, Turkish, Urdu and Welsh. A link to the pdf versions is available here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-opposing-female-genital-mutilation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-opposing-female-genital-mutilation)

  Hard copies are available by emailing FGMEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

- **FGM: This is Abuse Poster**

- **London FGM Resource Pack – London Safeguarding Children Board**
  The London Safeguarding Children Board produced an innovative pack to bring together a wide range of existing work into a one handy document. It is a key tool to help professionals work with community groups to end the practice of FGM. The pack is designed for all people who work with children, but especially midwives and other health professionals, teachers, social workers and police officers. It contains detailed information about FGM, as well as guidelines on how to identify girls at risk. There is also information to help professionals discuss the issue with parents and children. To access the document as well as the range of FGM resources produced be the London Safeguarding Children Board please follow the link below: [http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/fgm/](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/fgm/)

- **FGM Helpline – NSPCC**
  The FGM helpline was set up by the NSPCC, in partnership with the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police Service, to provide advice and information to anyone with concerns about FGM, and also to support increased referrals to the police. The dedicated FGM helpline (24 hours) has its own telephone number and email:
  **Telephone**: 0800 028 3550  
  **Email**: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk
Guidance and guidelines for professionals:

- **Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines: Female Genital Mutilation**
  In 2011, the Government launched Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines for front-line professionals such as teachers, GPs, nurses and police. The guidelines aim to raise awareness of FGM, highlight the risks that people should be aware of and set out clearly the steps that should be taken to safeguard children and women from this abuse. They are a key development in preventing girls from being harmed by FGM. A link to the document can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-multi-agency-practice-guidelines

  The guidance covers the legislative requirements and expectations on individual services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It also provides a clear framework for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to monitor the effectiveness of local services. A link to the guidance is below: http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/documents/Working%20TogetherFINAL.pdf

- **Tackling FGM in the UK: Intercollegiate recommendations for identifying, recording and reporting**
  Recommendations launched by an Intercollegiate Group that also includes recommendations for teachers and education professionals. The full report as a pdf can be accessed here: http://www.equalitynow.org/sites/default/files/Intercollegiate_FGM_report.pdf

- **Guidance for Schools – Metropolitan Police**
  The Metropolitan Police recently released guidance to schools regarding FGM. A pdf version of the guidance can be found here: http://www.hvec.org.uk/hvecmain/Sections/SafeGd/Docs/MetPoliceFgmGuidance.pdf
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Schools Resource Pack

FGM Support Organisations

Africa Advocacy Foundation
Lewisham
0208 698 4473
www.a-af.org

Birmingham & Solihull Women’s Aid
Birmingham
0121 685 8687 – Option 0 or extn: 233
www.bswaid.org

Black Association of Women Step Out
Cardiff
029 20644 633
www.bawso.org.uk

Black Women’s Health and Family Support
Tower Hamlets
0208 980 3503
www.bwhafs.com

Bolton Solidarity Community Association
Bolton
www.boltonbsca.com

British Somali Community
Camden
020 7485 2963
www.britishsomali.org

Daughters of Eve
London and Bristol
07983030488
www.dofeve.org

Eurosoma
Birmingham
0121 661 9446
www.eurosoma.org

FORWARD
London
0208 960 4000
www.forwarduk.org.uk

Granby Somali Women’s Group
Liverpool
0151 727 1008
www.granbysomaliwomensgroup.org

Integrate Bristol
Bristol
www.integratebristol.org.uk

Iranian Kurdish Women’s Rights Organisation
London
020 7920 6460
www.ikwro.org.uk

Manor Gardens Advocacy Project
London Borough of Islington
020 7281 7694
www.manorgardenscentre.org

New Step for African Communities
Manchester, Rochdale
01706 868 993
www.nestac.org

Ocean Somali Community Association
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
020 7987 5833
www.oceansomali.org.uk

Somali Development Services
Leicester
0116 285 5888 extn: 204
www.sds-ltd.org

Southall Community Alliance
London Borough of Ealing
020 8574 8855
www.southallcommunityalliance.org
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Schools Resource Pack

FGM Specialist Health Clinics

London:

**Acton African Well Women Centre**
Acton Health Centre, 35 – 61 Church Road
W3 8QE
Tel: 0208 383 8716; 0208 383 8712;
Open: Mon, Tue, Thurs: 8:30am - 6:30pm
Wed: 8:30am - 4:00pm
Fri: 8:30am - 8:00pm
Contact: Juliet Albert: Juliet.albert@nhs.net
Hayat Artek: Hayat.artek@nhs.net

**Gynecology & Midwifery Department**
*St. Mary’s Hospital*
Praed St. W1 1NY
Tel: 0207 886 6691 or 0207 886 1443
Helpline: 0203 312 6135
Open: 9 am – 5 pm
Contact: Judith Robbins or Sister Hany
foong.han@imperial.nhs.uk

**Women’s & Young People’s Services**

**African Well Women’s Clinic - Antenatal Clinic**
*Central Middlesex Hospital*
Acton Lane, Park Royal, NW10 7NS
Tel: 0208 963 7177; 0208 965 5733
Open: Friday, 9am – 12pm
Contact: Kamal Shehata Iskander
kamal.shehataiskander@nwlh.nhs.uk
Jacky Deehan: Jacqueline.deehan@nwlh.nhs.uk

**West London African Women’s Community Clinic**
West London Centre for Sexual Health
Charing Cross Hospital (south Wing)
Fulham Palace Road, W6 8RF
Tel: 0208 383 0827;

**Sylvia Pankhurst Health Centre**
*Mile End Hospital, 3rd floor*
Bancroft Rd, E1 4DG
Tel: 0207 377 7898 or 0207 377 7870
0208 223 8322
Open: Monday – Thursday 12pm-8pm; Friday, 9:30am - 5:30 pm
Contact: Dr. Geetha Subramanian
geetha.subramanian@thpct.nhs.uk
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Schools’ Resource Pack

Bristol

Minority Ethnic Women’s & Girl’s Clinic
Charlotte Keel Health Centre
Seymour Road
Easton
Bristol, BS5 OUA
Tel: 0117 902 7111 (direct line)
0117 902 7100 (switchboard)
Open: Drop-In Last Wed of every month,
9:30am – 12pm
Contact: Dr. Hilary Cooling

Liverpool

Multi-Cultural Antenatal Clinic
Liverpool Women’s Hospital
Crown St.
Liverpool, L8 7SS
Tel:
Open: Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm
Contact: Barbara Valjelo; Dr Joan Topping
barbara.valjelo@lwh.nhs.uk

Birmingham

Princess of Wales Women’s Unit Labour Ward
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital
Bordesley Green East
Birmingham, B9 5SS
Tel: 0121 424 3909 or 0121 424 0730
Mob: 0781 753 4274
Open: Thursday and Friday
Contact: Alison Bryne
alison.byrne@heartofengland.nhs.uk

Nottingham

Labour Ward
City Campus
Nottingham University Hospitals
Hucknall Road
Nottingham, NG5 1PB
Tel: 0115 969 1169 ext 55124 / 55127
Open: Monday, 13.30-17.00;
Tuesday, 9 - 12
Contact: Carol McCormick
Carol.mccormick@nuh.nhs.uk
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Schools Resource Pack

Resources and Information Order Form

To order any publications please complete the form below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Format and Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electronic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Resources</strong></td>
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<td>FGM Teaching Resource Pack</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Support and Services Guide</td>
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<td>FGM Frequently Asked Questions</td>
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<td>FGM Lesson Plan - Materials and Teaching Aids: Resource F: Character Statement Cards</td>
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<td>FGM Lesson Plan - Materials and Teaching Aids: Resource G: Health Complications</td>
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<td>FGM Lesson Plan - Materials and Teaching Aids: Resource J: Support Spaces Cards</td>
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To order any resources or request additional information please send completed form to:

youth@forwarduk.org.uk

Youth Programme, FORWARD, Suite 2.1, Chandelier Building, 8 Scrubs Lane, NW10 6RB

The majority of the resources are free (particularly electronic versions). However please note some resources are at a cost (to cover costs incurred in production) – this is dependent on amount of resources ordered.