

# FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

It is child abuse.  
It is illegal.  
End it.

You can talk  
to someone...



Are you worried about FGM, either for yourself, a sister or someone else?  
Are you a parent who feels pressured and wants to talk to someone?

You can call the **Gaia Centre** on **0207 733 8724** or  
speak to the **NSPCC** anonymously on **0800 028 3550**

# FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

**FGM, female circumcision or 'cutting' may cause serious health and emotional consequences that last a lifetime.**

**FGM is illegal under UK law** - whether it happens in the UK, or a UK resident is taken abroad to be cut. It is also a crime if you fail to protect a girl under 16 from FGM. Anyone found guilty of the offence faces a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.

## **Signs that a girl might be at risk of FGM:**

- \* Her family belongs to a community in which FGM is practised and they are making preparations to take her on a prolonged holiday or planning absence from school
- \* She or someone she knows may talk about her being taken "home" for a special visit:
  - a party is being held in her honour,
  - she is going to 'become a woman' or 'get ready for marriage' or
  - a special procedure or ceremony is going to take place
- \* She may say a female family elder is coming especially to see her

## **What you can do?**

If you are concerned about yourself, someone else or if you are a parent who feels pressured:

- \* If the risk is immediate, call 999
- \* Call the free 24 hour FGM helpline anonymously on **0800 028 3550** for advice, support or to report a concern (NSPCC)
- \* Call the local Gaia Centre on **0207 733 8724** for help, this is a Lambeth service that supports girls and women who experience gender-based violence such as FGM
- \* Carry an 'FGM passport' with you, especially when you go abroad. It is a Statement opposing FGM available in several languages on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk). You can show it to your family, it makes it clear that FGM is a serious criminal offence in UK

For further information visit [www.lambethscb.gov.uk](http://www.lambethscb.gov.uk)