



OxfordAgainstCutting
StopFemaleGenitalMutilation



Be part of the change
that ends FGM within a generation

CONTENTS

What is FGM?	04_
Who is affected?	06_
Why do people practice FGM?	07_
Should boys care?	08_
The law	09_
Human rights	09_
A survivor's story	11_
Help and support	12_
Who should I tell?	12_
How to help people you know	13_
Helplines	14_

CONTRIBUTORS

This booklet was created by young people from Cheney School and Cherwell School who participated in a project designed by Oxford Against Cutting.

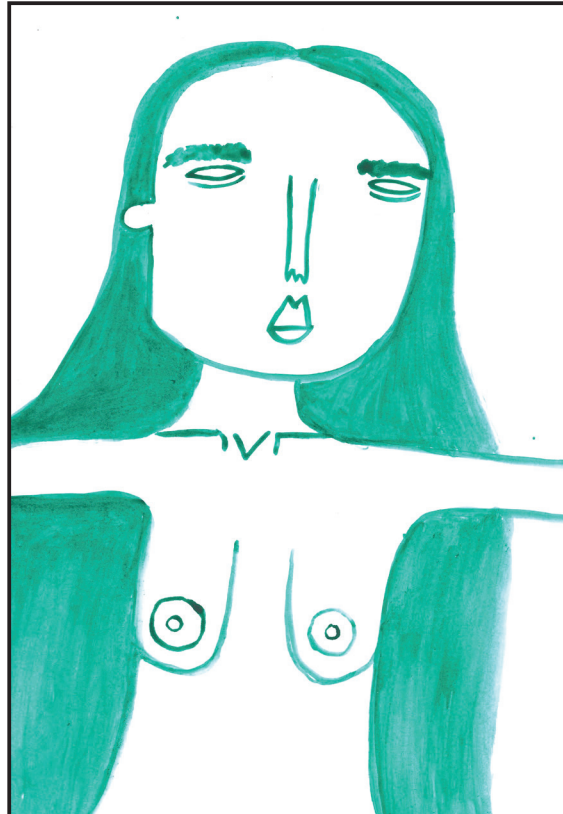
With thanks to

Abbie, Ahd, Anna, Chantelle, Ella, Flora, Iman, Luna, Nia, Roisin, Roisin, Sondos, Sophia.

The student team also ran an art competition, CUT: Artists Against FGM, and the winners' artwork is reproduced in this booklet.

Cover

Adapted from artwork by Emily Hicks (page 15)



WHAT IS FGM? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT.

FGM stands for female genital mutilation. It is the removal of the external parts of female genitalia.

Some people call it female genital cutting (FGC) or female circumcision (FC).

Type 1:
when the clitoris or the clitoral hood is cut off.

Type 2:
when the clitoris and inner lips are cut off.

Type 3:
when the clitoris, inner lips and outer lips are cut and sewn together.

Type 4: all other harmful practices including pricking, piercing, cutting, scraping and burning.





_image by
Roisin Anderson

DOES IT
HAPPEN
HERE? WE
KNOW GIRLS
ARE TAKEN
ABROAD TO
HAVE IT DONE.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY FGM?

FGM happens to girls from when they are born up to adolescence or just before they get married.

An estimated 200 million women and girls have been affected worldwide.

There are an estimated 137,000 women and girls affected by FGM in England and Wales.*

It happens globally, nationally and locally.

_image by
Camilla Billari



_image by
Olivia Burt and Mimi Morley Iszatt



* Statistics updated January 2018

_image by
by Moontaha Begum



_image by
Alexandra Waring

WHY?

Some people think they have to do FGM because of religion but it's a practice that exists in cultures all over the world, regardless of religious belief.

It has been passed down from one generation to another. Sometimes it is done to show that a girl is becoming a woman.

Some girls are pressured to have it done so as not to bring dishonour to the family's name.

FGM is often done to stop girls having sexual desires and protect their virginity.

BOYS

Does it matter to boys?

It is important for boys to know about FGM because it can affect their mothers, sisters and their own child.

Everybody needs to tackle this issue together.

Circumcision of boys is very different to FGM because of the reasons behind it, the risks involved and the harm.

_image by Georgie Newson



THE LAW

It is illegal for people in the UK to perform FGM.

It is also illegal to take a girl overseas to have FGM performed on her and to assist the procedure taking place.

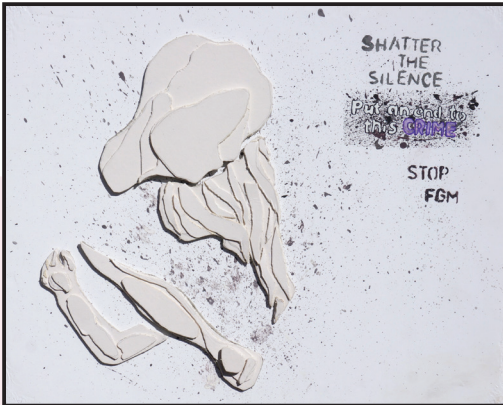


image by Isabel Pallera

HUMAN RIGHTS

FGM is a violation of multiple human rights. For example:

_the right to health and security

_the right to life as in some cases FGM can lead to death

_right to equality

It causes inequality between men and women and is a form of discrimination.



_image by
Alicia

A SURVIVOR'S STORY

“ Waris Dirie was about five years old when she was left in a makeshift shelter under a tree for several days to recover from her female genital mutilation (FGM).

She still remembers her anger. “When they tried to convince me that God wants this, I said: ‘Did my God hate me so much?’ I remember telling my mother: ‘If he hates me, then I don’t want him.’”

In the days after FGM, many girls die from blood loss or infection. Dirie says she lay there, talking to God, saying, “make me stay alive. You owe me this now.”

“All my life I’ve tried to think of a reason for my circumcision. If I could think of a reason, then perhaps I would be able to accept what they’ve done to me. But I’ve never been able to find one. And the more I

thought about it, the angrier I got”.

“Female genital mutilation targets little girls, baby girls, fragile angels who are helpless, who cannot fight back. It’s a crime against a child, a crime against humanity. It’s abuse. It’s absolutely criminal and we have to stop it”.

”

footnote

Waris Dirie is a Somali model, author, actress and social activist. She has established various foundations for the protection of girls’ and women’s rights and is UN Special Ambassador for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.

HELP AND SUPPORT

“

I am worried for ...

I think I may be at risk

I just need someone to talk to

”



WHO SHOULD I TELL?

Trusted adult

Police Officer
Teacher
School Nurse

HOW TO HELP PEOPLE YOU KNOW

- _You can talk to them about your concern and let them know why you think it is a harmful practice.
- _FGM will affect everyone. It affects you, your family and your children.
- _Be sensitive and make sure they know you're helping. You can contact helplines.

HELPLINES

If you or someone you know is at IMMEDIATE risk of being cut or being taken overseas to be cut call the police on 999

You can make a referral if you are concerned that a child is at risk of harm to:

MASH, Oxfordshire (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) 0345 050 7666

NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

0800 028 3550 (FGM Helpline) - a free 24hr service for advice, information or support.

Email: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 731 0055

FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development)

020 8960 4000

www.forwarduk.org.uk

Metropolitan Police

There is a child abuse investigation unit dealing with FGM known as Project Azure

020 7161 2888

Childline

0800 11 11 (this number will not show up on a phone bill).

Home Office

You can get information from the Home Office that might help you argue against FGM. You can obtain a small leaflet to carry with you about the UK law in various languages on: 0870 241 4680

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

+44 (0)20 7008 1500

Call the Foreign and Commonwealth Office if you are abroad and need help or advice.

Oxford Rose Clinic is a specialist FGM clinic based at the John Radcliffe Hospital. This clinic also accepts self-referrals (via email: oxfordrose.clinic@nhs.net). This is a confidential service open to pregnant and non-pregnant women that is run by a female doctor. It is held monthly. The clinic also offers a deinfibulation (“opening”) service for women who have had Type 3 FGM. 0776 767 1406



_image by Emily Hicks

Let's talk about FGM

Be part of the change that ends FGM within a generation

www.oxfordagainstcutting.org



OxfordAgainstCutting
StopFemaleGenitalMutilation



The North Wall
Arts Centre



in collaboration with
Amnesty International
Oxford City

