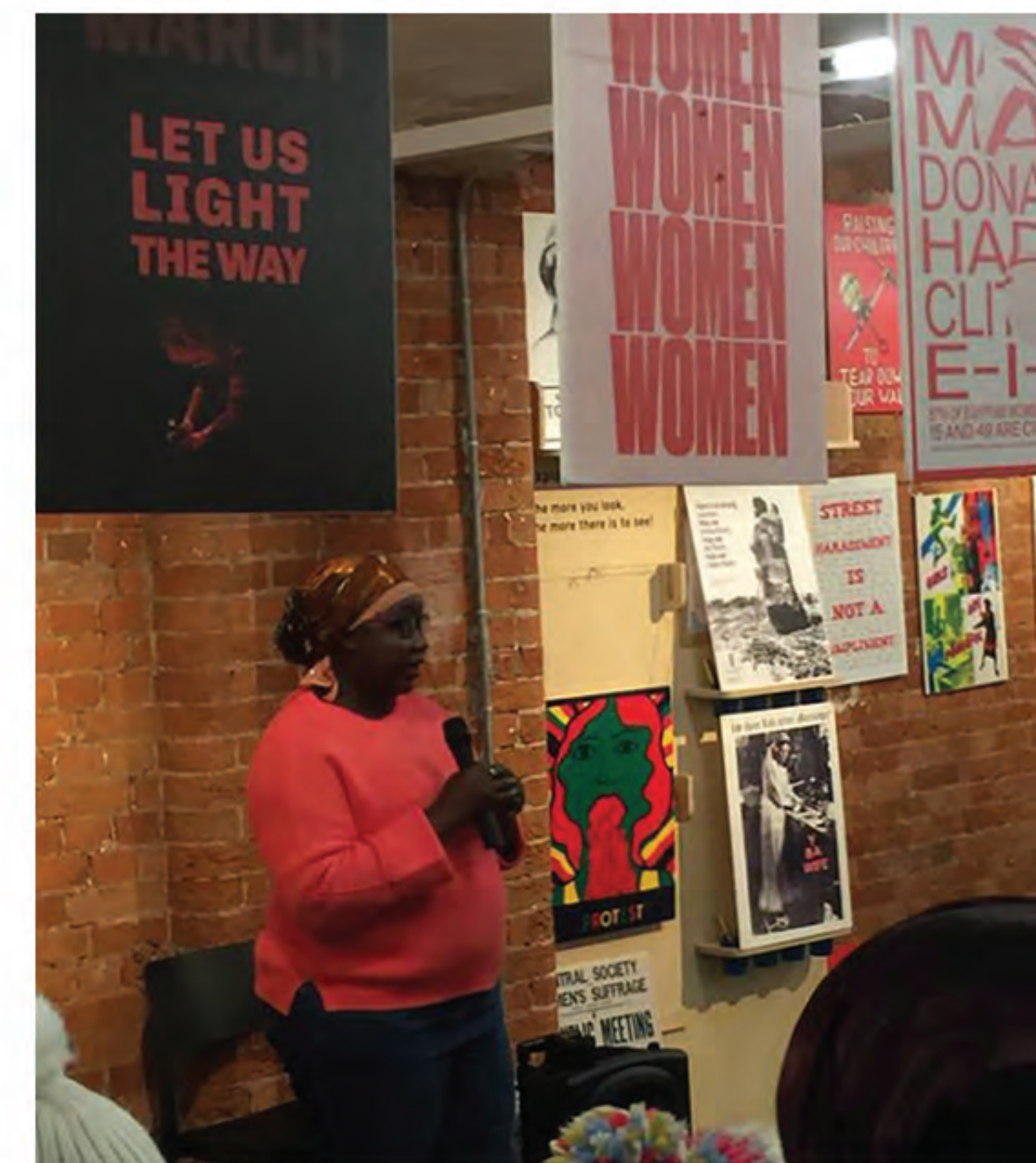




OxfordAgainstCutting
StopFemaleGenitalMutilation



Oxford Against Cutting Annual Review

For year ended 31st March 2019
Charity number 1161597



OxfordAgainstCutting
StopFemaleGenitalMutilation

www.oxfordagainstcutting.org

What we do

We tackle cultural practices that harm girls and women living in the Thames Valley, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and other forms of honour-based abuse. We focus on ending harmful practices through education and supporting families from affected communities. Young people and facilitators from affected communities, some of whom are survivors of honour-based abuse such as FGM, are at the forefront of our activities.

Schools

- Over 1000 teachers and students reached at schools across the Thames Valley during 2018
- Sessions reached nursery, primary, secondary and university levels
- Anti-FGM assembly delivered to 190 Year 8 students and 5 **lessons** delivered to 79 Year 10 students
- New **body image workshop** created and delivered to students in 8 workshops at Abingdon and Witney College
- New package developed, **Tackling FGM, forced marriage and other forms of honour-based abuse** for school staff and delivered to 165 teachers
- **Primary school lessons**, Who Can You Tell, delivered to 60 Year 2 students
- Our film, **Who Can You Tell**, included in resources on government website
- Chosen provider of anti-FGM training for NASUWT, the Teachers' Union, and workshops delivered at their Women's Conference in October 2018
- Evaluation data collected ready to report on 2-year schools project in 2020

Communities & Professionals

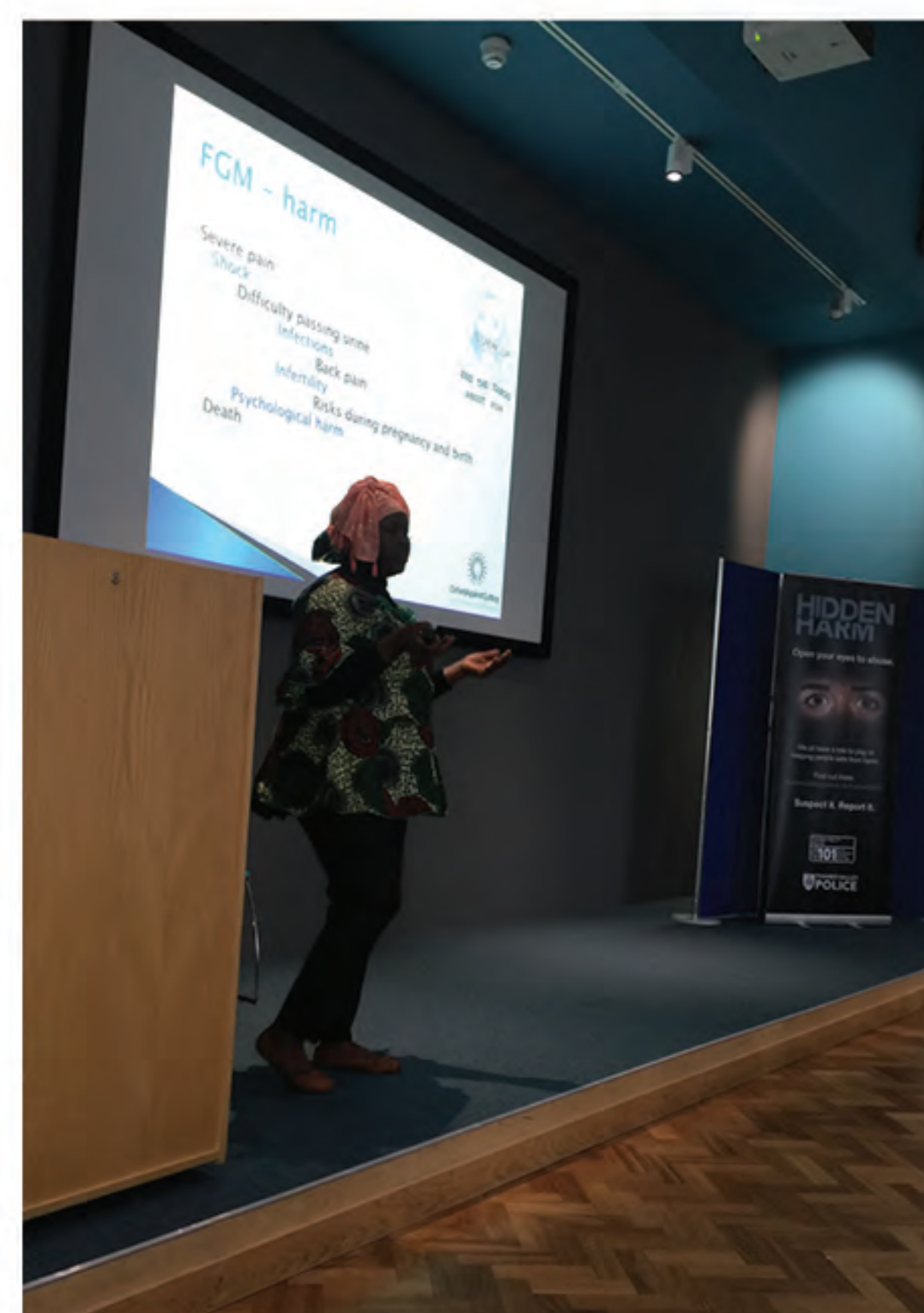
- #wetalkedFGM project and report on anti-FGM work with men
- Anti-FGM Football Project in partnership with East Oxford United
- 5 workshops and presentations for community groups, academics and conferences
- Anti-FGM workshops delivered for Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board multi-agency training, Victims First and Thames Valley Police child abuse officers
- Speaker at ACRE conference in Reading in February 2019
- Creation of new toolkit to support women and girls from BAMER communities access support services following sexual violence

Young People

- Children of the Rose Community story-telling event
- Active Youth Wing
- For Every Girl solidarity song

Awareness-Raising

- Wide-spread poster campaign across the Thames Valley to highlight support services





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StopFemaleGenitalMutilation

Executive Summary

We believe that education is the key to cultural change and the protection of children from harmful cultural practices, such as FGM and forced marriage. We continue to provide high quality, sensitive workshops for schools and communities and our training is delivered by facilitators from affected communities, some of whom are survivors of these practices. We continue to be the anti-FGM charity chosen by NASUWT, the Teachers' Union, to deliver anti-FGM workshops.

Our team has grown, with Dr Nesreen Yanni, Paediatrician; Dot Pritchard, Project Coordinator; and Hassan Sabrie, Diversity Lead, joining our team. We have strengthened partnerships, working with representatives of the Somali communities in Oxford, Slough and Milton Keynes. We have a strong team of freelance facilitators who now represent the Gambian, Sudanese, Somali, Kenyan, Sierra Leonean and Egyptian communities. We have led successful collaborative projects in partnership with East Oxford United and The Sunrise Multicultural Project.

We are delighted to have created and delivered new training packages including **FGM, forced marriage and other types of honour-based abuse** safeguarding training for teachers and **FGM, female cosmetic genital surgery and body image** workshops for students. The workshop series we developed for our

Anti-FGM Football Project gave us an opportunity to explore a range of rights and relationship issues, as well as supporting boys at East Oxford United to become anti-FGM champions. The expansion of our work has enabled us to reach students from all cultural backgrounds to reflect on harmful practices and body rights.

This year we had special focus on supporting men to talk about FGM, with our project #wetalkedFGM. We have also worked with community groups and professionals, using a variety of media to talk about FGM, for example, a creative saddle-making workshop with women from the Rose Community, as part of a Cowley Road Works project; and Afrobeats Against FGM dance workshop as part of conversations in solidarity with activists and academics. We also continue to support young people to take a very active, visible role in anti-FGM initiatives and our Youth Wing has recently created a song about FGM and breast ironing.

Our 2018 helplines poster campaign focused on the positive changes that are happening to end FGM and we disseminated local versions of the poster across Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, East Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Overall, this year has seen considerable growth in our reach and impact, with our team's ongoing commitment and passion to end cultural practices that harm our families and communities.

Training In Schools

Our main anti-FGM training package includes the harm, the law, reasons, warning signs, safeguarding and mandatory reporting for school staff teams. We have been commissioned to deliver 60 sessions to schools across the Thames Valley, as well as sessions for the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board between 2017 and 2019. We have up-skilled new facilitators from anti-FGM groups in Slough, Milton Keynes and Reading.

Our training work has significant impact, as demonstrated in our Oxfordshire Schools Training Evaluation Report July 2017 and Schools Training Evaluation Report February 2018. A further report on our schools work will be prepared in 2020.

The evaluation demonstrates that confidence levels in dealing with all the issues surrounding FGM increase significantly following our training sessions. In addition, many more schools have confirmed that they now intend to introduce classroom work on body rights, such as the NSPCC's PANTS campaign.

“Attendees at NASUWT Conferences have reported excellent feedback from the workshops provided by Oxford Against Cutting. The workshops addressed this sensitive issue in a professional and informative manner. Comments from students indicated the sessions were well received and very useful in helping them to identify warning signs in schools”.

NASUWT, Teachers' Union



Schools reached (April 2018-2019)

Oxfordshire

- Cheney School, Make a Change Day, 80 girls from Year 10 took part in 4 anti-FGM workshops.
- The Warriner School, Bloxham
- Windmill Primary School
- Abingdon College
- The Blake CE Primary School
- Grove Primary School
- North Hinksey CE Primary School
- Dr Radcliffe's Primary School
- Oxford Brookes University - children's nursing students

Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

- Knowles Primary School
- Rickley Park Primary School
- Stantonbury Campus
- Caroline Haslett Primary School
- Orchard and Shepherdswell Academy
- Oakgrove School – secondary and primary
- Middleton Primary School
- Monkston Primary School
- Hazeley Academy – Year 8 students

- Elmtree Infant and Nursery School (Chesham)

- Great Horwood School

Reading, West Berkshire

- Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School
- Meadow Park Academy
- Churchend Academy
- St John's C E Primary School
- Geoffrey Field Junior School
- Park Lane Junior School
- The Ridgeway
- Blagdon Nursery School
- UTC Reading
- Alfred Sutton Primary School
- Maiden Erlegh School

Slough, East Berkshire

- Beechwood School
- Maiden Erlegh School
- Lynch Hill School
- Littledown Special School
- The Langley Academy Primary School
- Parlaunt Park Primary Academy



Body Image Workshops

We have developed a body image workshop to address the increasing social pressures put on young people to look a certain way and, in some cases, alter their genitalia.

OAC works closely with our Patron, Dr Brenda Kelly, Consultant Obstetrician and Founder/Director of the Oxford Rose Clinic for FGM survivors. Dr Kelly observed that her colleagues had seen a sharp rise in young girls requesting cosmetic genital surgery. With the influence of pornography, ideas around “normal” genitalia have changed significantly in recent years and increasing numbers of girls are seeking surgery to achieve “perfect” genitals.

Our body image workshops explore the pressures that platforms such as social media put on us to look a certain way and aims to show that social media, pornography and other influencers are often unrealistic representations of reality.

Students are encouraged to think about questions like...

‘What is the natural appearance and function of female genitalia?’

‘Where do ideas about how genitals “should” look come from?’

The workshop gives students the opportunity to think about where these societal pressures are coming from, and looks at how many of the cultural reasons for carrying out FGM are similar to the cultural pressures that underpin female cosmetic genital surgery.

The workshop highlights the natural diversity of female genitalia and aims to increase students’ overall body confidence, as well as raising awareness of harmful cultural practices that change genitalia.

We have delivered 8 workshops for students at Abingdon and Witney College.

“The lesson made me feel more confident talking about these issues”

“The lesson taught me to feel more comfortable with my body”

“I learnt about FGM, what it is, where it happens, why it happens”

“I learnt that you should be proud of your body and it does not matter what others think”

The evaluation report for our body image project is available on our website.



Artist: Roisin Anderson

Oxford Against Cutting In The Community

Men & Boys - OAC believes everyone in the family and community has a role to play to help end FGM and in 2018 we focused on engaging men with anti-FGM work.



Men's Community Group – Oxford, November 2018

#wetalkedFGM Campaign

The #wetalkedFGM campaign for men was introduced in May 2018 and included men's discussion groups, case studies and a social media campaign. The project encouraged men and men's groups to 'pledge' to talk about FGM to another man, having a conversation about FGM and asking him to speak to another man, and so on.

Organisations that have pledged include NASUWT Milton Keynes

Local Members Association, Milton Keynes Somali Outreach Project and East Oxford United. The men's groups included men-only discussion time, facilitated by local community leaders.

OAC also engaged with individual men from FGM-affected communities and C's story is on our website.

This project was kindly funded by The Funding Network and our report, Engaging men in the campaign against FGM: successes and challenges April 2019, is available on our website. OAC also engaged and filmed faith leaders and will develop this work further in 2019.



Leaders of men's group – Milton Keynes, November 2018



Anti-FGM Football Project, May 2018

OAC and East Oxford United, a community football club, worked in partnership to support boys to become anti-FGM champions and learn about healthy relationships.

We worked with 19 boys from the club, who ranged from 13 to 17 years of age, and included participants from a wide number of ethnic and national origins, including East African, Eastern European, Middle Eastern, South Asian, British African and Asian and English.

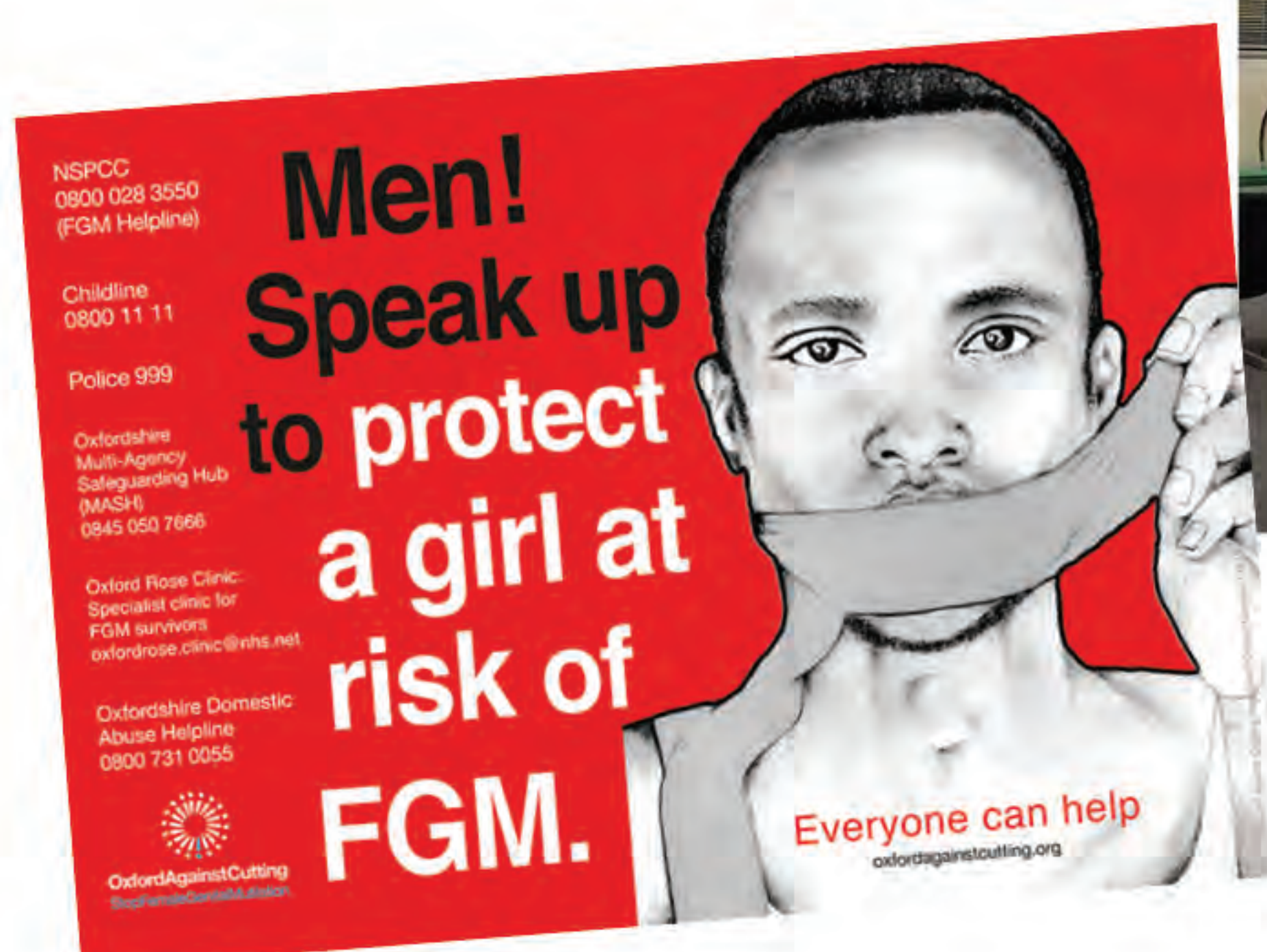
The boys took part in 8 football workshops on Tackling Mindset, Consent, Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships, What is Masculine/What is Feminine, FGM, Anti-FGM Champions, Communities and Change and Body Image.

The coaches at East Oxford United, led by Hassan Sabrie, helped embed learning on the pitch after the workshops, with players using terms such as "respect!"; "speak up!" and "cancel and continue!" to reinforce the workshop material.

Supporters for Anti-FGM Football Project: Oxfordshire Community Foundation and Oxford Safer Communities Partnership.

"Men are dominant in our society. Men make the decisions. If we can get men to say that FGM is harmful to our daughters, we can make a change."

Hassan Sabrie, Men's Champion against FGM



New Bridges Project Collaboration

A partnership, Oxford Against Cutting (OAC) and The Sunrise Multicultural Project (Sunrise) worked together on a collaborative project with specialist focus on issues of sexual violence in BAMER (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee) communities. The partners created a toolkit for community groups and professionals to help tackle these issues.

The partners piloted workshops with BAMER women and services to address “internal” barriers which prevent women and girls from seeking support following sexual abuse, as well as workshops for specialist sexual violence workers to address “external” factors, such as learning about cultural norms.

A short film created by young people from BAMER communities highlights key issues around sexual violence in these groups, and leaflets are available to support BAMER women and girls to recognise sexual abuse and highlight support options.

The project has been funded by Thames Valley BAMER Project.

The leaflets are available on our website and the toolkit is available on request.



Oxford Against Cutting In The Community Children & Young People

Children of the Rose Community!

We ran an arts and story-writing event for 16 primary school children in July 2018. The children learned about their bodies, their rights and keeping safe from sexual harm. They also drew pictures and wrote stories to reinforce learning. The children were aged 5-11, mostly from African communities, representing 3 Oxfordshire primary schools.

Youth Wing

The Youth Wing meets regularly and includes young representatives of communities from Sudan and Malaysia.

Achievements:

Created a song, For Every Girl, to stand in solidarity with girls suffering harmful practices such as FGM and breast ironing

Performed song live at Womanity event hosted by Young Women's Music Project in March 2019

Worked with team at The Ogston Music School, St Edward's School, to create a professional recording of For Every Girl

Young person was a Trustee of Oxford Against Cutting

Youth Wing raised awareness through social media running the Youth Wing Twitter account:
OAC_YouthGroup

Our charity also delivered workshops and presentations for:

- The Rose Community – saddle-making workshop, in partnership with Cowley Road Works
- Oxford Society of Paediatrics
- OSARCC, Reclaim the Night
- Refugee Resource women's group
- University of Oxford and UnCUT/VOICES Press – Youth and Media conference
- Thames Valley Police Child Abuse Officers' Conference
- Thames Valley Police Child Abuse Officers - workshops
- Oxford City Council (Tackling Domestic Abuse in Asian Families)
- NASUWT, Teachers' Union, Women Teachers' Conference at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham
- Sunrise Multicultural Project (Tackling Domestic Abuse in Asian Families)



Awareness-Raising

Our 2018 helplines poster campaign was launched at the beginning of June across Oxfordshire, East Berkshire, West Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. The poster features a group of children looking towards the horizon to symbolise a positive future where FGM is no longer practiced.

The poster also highlights positive changes that are happening within FGM-affected communities in the UK, as more and more families are choosing to not cut their daughters. This message will help support other families to manage pressure to carry out FGM.

Our posters are displayed before the start of the school summer holidays, when many girls in the UK may be at high risk of being cut. They were disseminated and displayed across the Thames Valley in GP surgeries, community centres, university buildings, hospitals, bus shelters, buses and police stations. We also sent posters to every school in the Thames Valley.

Dr Brenda Kelly, Director and Founder of the Oxford Rose Clinic, was able to work with one patient who had lived with the impacts of FGM for many years with no support, and contacted the Rose Clinic after seeing a campaign poster from Oxford Against Cutting. The survivor said that discovering the clinic had “changed her life”.

The campaign was featured in the Oxford Mail and by That’s Oxfordshire TV.

The posters were widely disseminated across the whole Thames Valley and some examples are opposite:



Schools poster campaign



Bus shelter poster in Slough



Billboard in Reading with ACRE Lead, Victor Koroma



Panel inside bus in Slough (panels were also inside buses in Milton Keynes and Reading)

How To Donate

Please support us in helping prevent FGM and forced marriage and support survivors living in the Thames Valley. Every donation we receive makes a significant contribution towards continuing our work. **Our overheads are minimal as we do not have office space.** You can therefore be reassured that your donation will directly contribute to our work to tackle harmful cultural practices.

You can donate to Oxford Against Cutting:

- Online via our website: <https://www.oxfordagainstcutting.org/donate-here/>
- Make a single donation by bank transfer, or set up a regular donation by standing order Account name: **Oxford Against Cutting Account number: 33389952 Sort code: 20-97-48**

For more information visit our website: www.oxfordagainstcutting.org



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Going The Extra Mile

In addition to a packed calendar of training, awareness-raising and education events, OAC is a member and contributor to:

Thames Valley project for BAMER communities supported by the VAWG Transformation Fund

The Oxford FGM Operational Group, set up by Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

The FGM Education group, a sub-group of the Oxford FGM Operational Group

Thames Valley FGM Planning Group Meeting

Home Office FGM Unit Stakeholder Group

CEO: Kate Agha

Patron: Dr Brenda Kelly

Research Director: Dr Kate Clayton-Hathway

Community Outreach Director: Kaddy Touray

Community Outreach Director: Lena El-hindi

Project Coordinator: Dot Pritchard

Facilitator and Paediatrician:

Dr Nesreen Yanni

Diversity Lead & Men's Champion:

Hassan Sabrie

Trustees

- Caroline Pinder (Chair)
- Dr Sharon Dixon (Treasurer),
Oxford GP Lead on FGM
- Joanne McEwan
- Miranda Dobson
- Benn Kiley
- Richard Coleman
- Liz Parry



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Our Supporters





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