

Safeguarding News

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International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM

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Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

Key Facts:

- Globally, it is estimated that at least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM.
- Girls 14 and younger represent 44 million of those who have been cut, with the highest prevalence of FGM among this age in Gambia at 56 per cent, Mauritania 54 per cent and Indonesia where around half of girls aged 11 and younger have undergone the practice.
- Countries with the highest prevalence among girls and women aged 15 to 49 are Somalia at 98 per cent, Guinea at 97 per cent and Djibouti at 93 per cent.
- FGM is mostly carried out on young girls sometime between infancy and age 15.
- FGM causes severe bleeding and health issues, including cysts, infections and infertility, as well as complications in childbirth and an increased risk of new born deaths.
- FGM is a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

A mandatory reporting duty for FGM requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report known cases of FGM in under 18-year-olds to the police. The FGM duty came into force on 31 October 2015.

Signs/Indicators; A family arranging a long break abroad during the summer holidays; unexpected, repeated or prolonged absence from school; academic work suffering; have difficulty walking, standing or sitting; spend longer in the bathroom or toilet; appear withdrawn, anxious or depressed; have unusual behaviour after an absence from school or college; be particularly reluctant to undergo normal medical examinations; asking for help, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear.

All concerns to be reported to a member of the Safeguarding team via CPOMS immediately.