



## The law

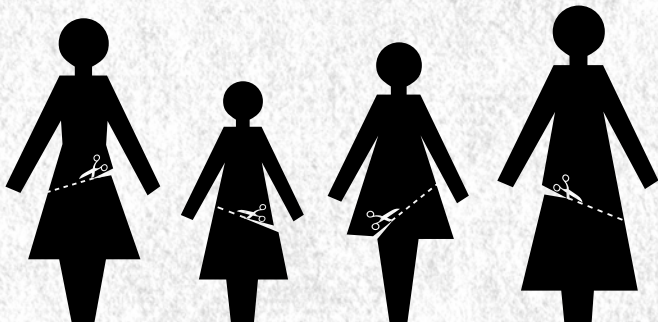
It is against the law in the UK for anyone to carry out FGM on women or children.

It is against the law to take girls or women who live in the UK to a different country to carry out FGM.

It is against the law to help someone else carry out FGM. This includes making travel arrangements.

The law includes Type 1 FGM which people sometimes call “sunnah”.

If a person carries out FGM or helps someone else to carry out FGM, they could pay a fine or go to prison for up to 14 years.



## Contact details and more help

If you think someone is going to do FGM on a girl or woman — you must contact the Police.

### Telephone 101

You can get more information about FGM from the BAVA website. This gets updated regularly.

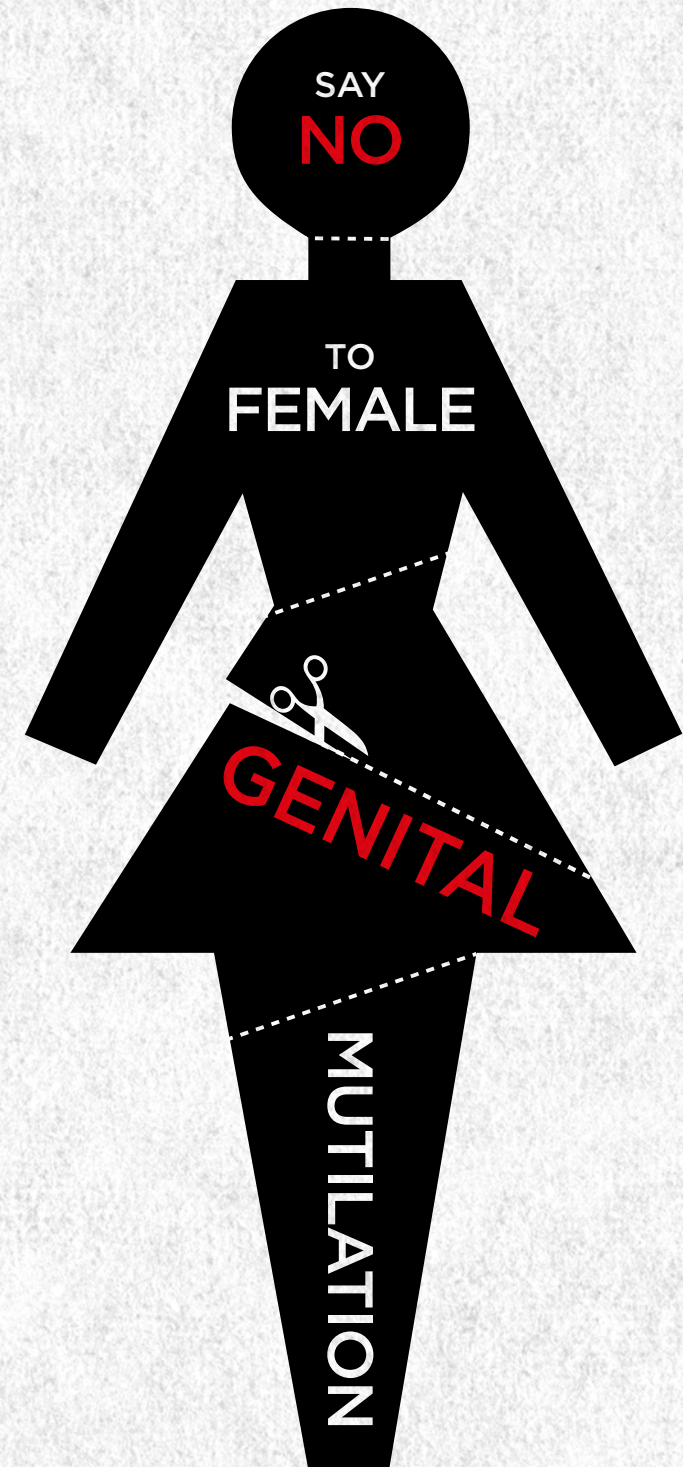
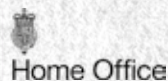
[www.bava.org.uk](http://www.bava.org.uk)

There is a separate sheet with more contact details on if you need more help. Or you can get this sheet from the BAVA website.

Many People in Bristol are working to stop FGM and help women and girls who have already had FGM.

You can see more information about this on the BAVA website or on the contact sheet.

This leaflet is also available in Somali, Arabic and French.





## What is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)? (Also known as cutting or circumcision)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) includes procedures that intentionally change or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

## Types of Female Genital Mutilation

### Type 1

Removing some or all of the clitoris  
(Sometimes mistakenly called sunnah)

### Type 2

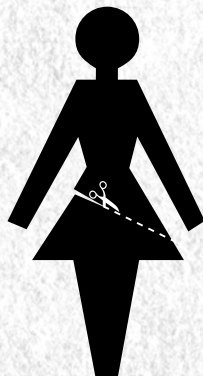
Removing the clitoris with some or all of the small labium (lips)

### Type 3

Removing some or all of the female parts, including the clitoris. Sewing the edges together to leave a tiny hole

### Type 4

All other types of harm including pricking, cutting, burning and piercing.



## Where FGM started

- Some people started doing FGM a long time ago.
- People think that pharaohs in Egypt started doing FGM.
- Habit and tradition make people do FGM.
- People carry on doing FGM because they think it protects girls—but it harms them and needs to stop.

## Health problems of FGM

- Broken bones
- Severe pain and shock
- You could die because of shock and blood loss
- You could get repeated infections which make it very painful to wee
- Infections could stop you from getting pregnant
- A woman with FGM is more likely to give birth to a dead baby
- Women and girls with FGM often feel sad and depressed



## FGM and religion

- There are no religious texts that describe how to do FGM or to say you should do it.
- FGM has been practiced by people of many different religions but none of the religious scripts ask for people to do it.
- Religions usually talk about keeping your body healthy.
- FGM is not healthy—it is harmful.

**Sunnah** is sometimes used mistakenly to refer to type 1 FGM. The word sunnah is an Arabic word that means “a clear and well trodden path”. It refers to prophet Mohammed’s specific words, habits, practices, and silent approvals.

But there is no mention of prophet Mohammed practicing or approving of FGM in any religious scriptures and therefore we should not refer to any type of FGM as “sunnah”.

