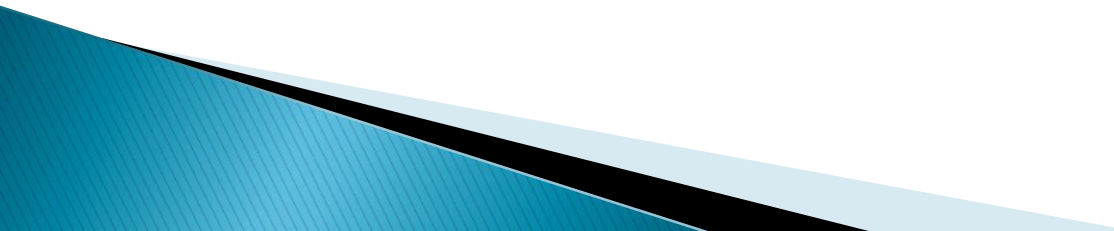


Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)



Learning Outcomes

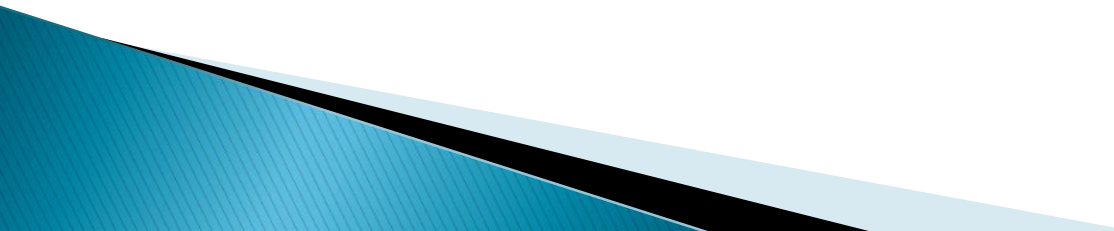
- ▶ A basic awareness of what is Female Genital Mutilation
 - ▶ Recognise that FGM is a form of gender based violence
 - ▶ Understand that it is an issue for Scotland
 - ▶ An awareness of criminal legislation on FGM in Scotland
 - ▶ Identify at least 3 warning signs of FGM
 - ▶ Know where to signpost and find help in Scotland
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What is FGM

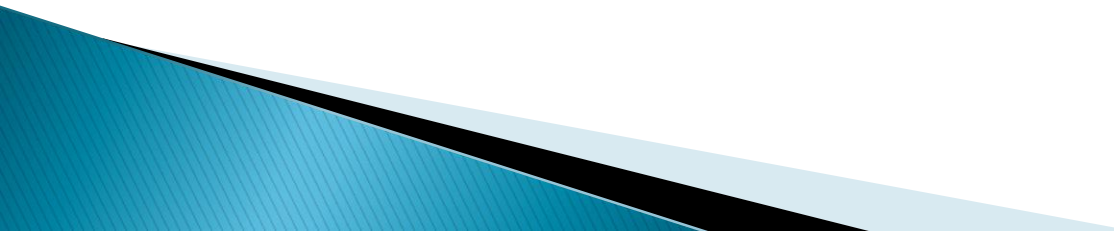
Female genital mutilation (FGM), often referred to as 'genital cutting' or 'female circumcision'

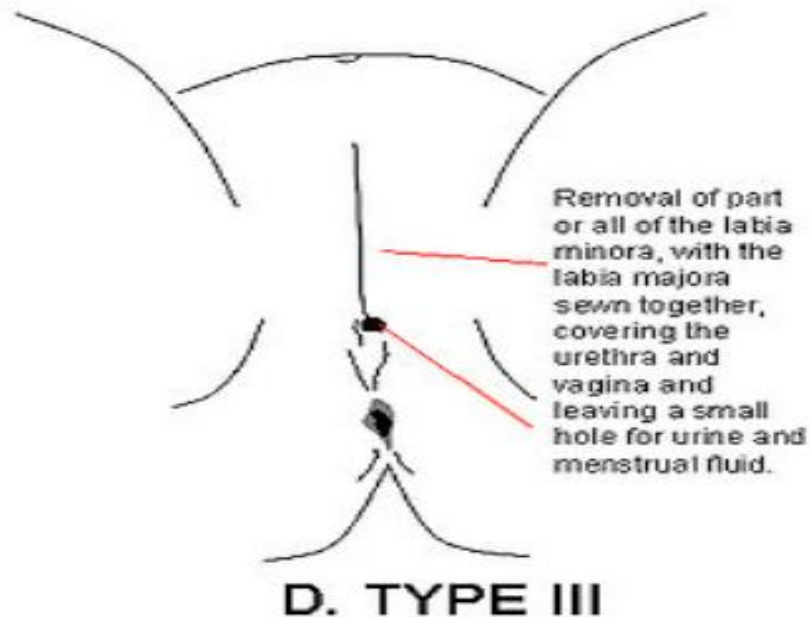
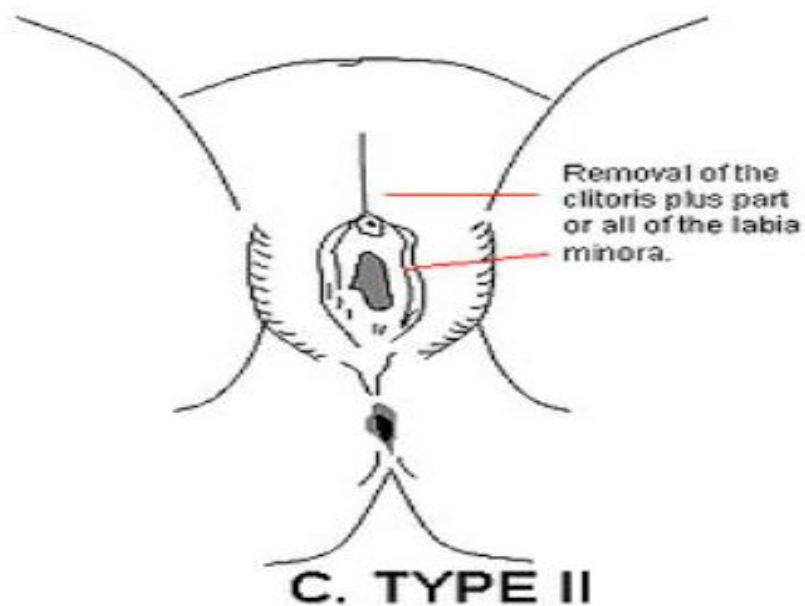
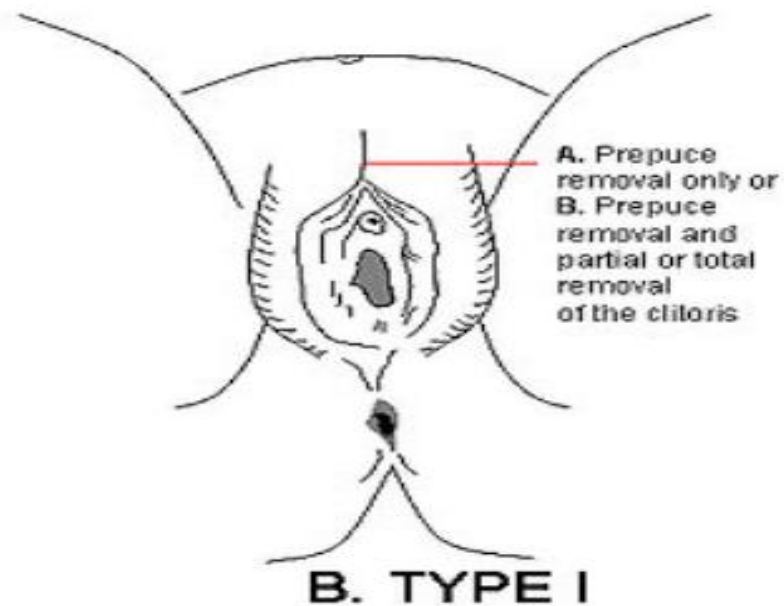
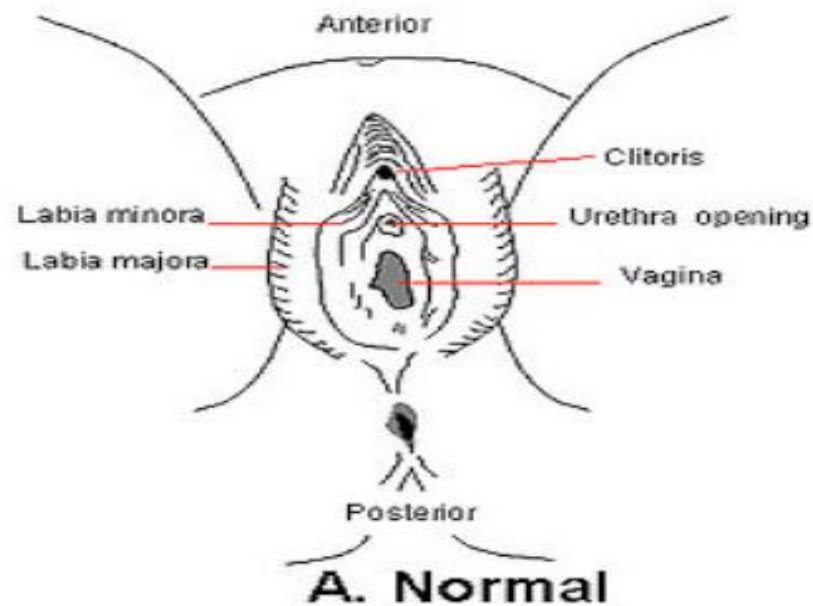
Is defined as 'injury to, or the partial or total removal of, the female external genitalia for non-medical reasons'

(WHO, 2004)

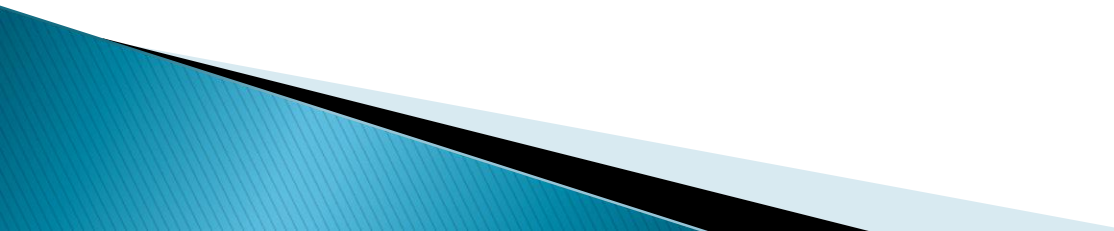


WHO has identified 4 main types of FGM

- ▶ **Type 1: Clitoridectomy** – Involves the partial or total removal of the clitoris and or the prepuce
 - ▶ **Type2 : Excision** – Is the excision of the clitoris together with the partial or total removal of the labia minora
 - ▶ **Type3 : Infibulation** – Excision of part or all of the external genitalia and stitching or narrowing of the vaginal orifice
 - ▶ **Type 4: Other** – All other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for nonmedical purposes, including pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterization.
- 



How is FGM performed?

- ▶ Usually performed by an elderly woman with no medical background
 - ▶ Performed without anaesthetic (children are not given medication both before and after).
 - ▶ In most cases no medication is offered to child
 - ▶ Equipment such as razor blades, knives, scissors, glass etc. are used
 - ▶ Unhygienic environments and equipment not sterilized
 - ▶ Group of girls cut at the same time
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Effects of FGM

Short-term effects include:

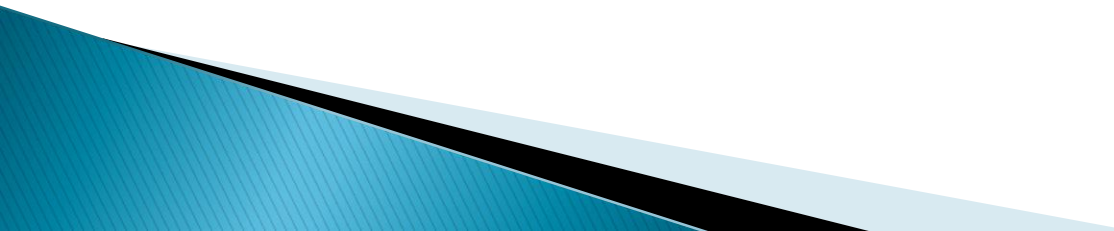
- ▶ Severe physical pain
- ▶ Emotional and psychological shock
- ▶ Severe bleeding
- ▶ Infections
- ▶ Abuse from frustrated husbands
- ▶ Urinary Retention
- ▶ Fractures (Hold them down)
- ▶ Wound infections, including tetanus and blood-borne viruses such as HIV
- ▶ Death

Long-term effects include:

- ▶ Chronic vaginal & pelvic infections
- ▶ Problems with menstruation and UTI.
- ▶ Complications during pregnancy
- ▶ Pain during sex
- ▶ Psychological damage
- ▶ Increased risk of HIV and other STI.

FGM Prevalence on a Global Scale

FGM is practiced across all socioeconomic classes by a range of ethnic, cultural, and religious groups

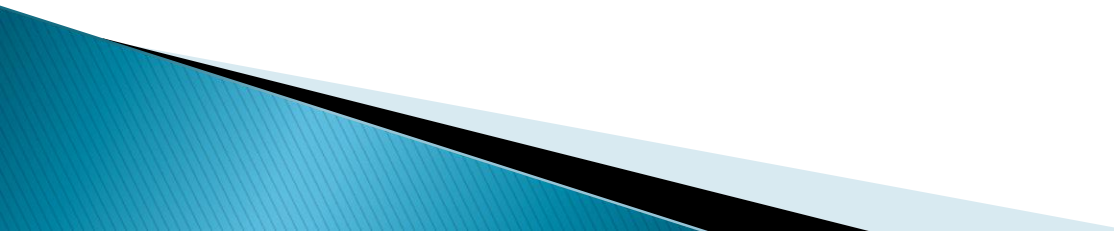
- ▶ It is found in 28 African countries and has also been reported in the Middle East and Asia
 - ▶ Globally it is estimated around 100–140million women and girls have undergone FGM, with further 2 million at risk every year
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What does this mean for the UK?

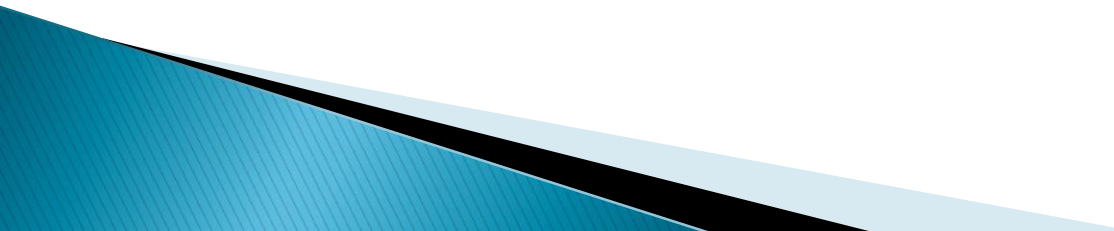
Estimated Prevalence.

In 2007 FORWARD estimated that at least 98,376 girls under the age of 15 in the UK were at risk of FGM or had already undergone the procedure (including around 16,000 at risk of type III).

According to the 2011 census,

- ▶ In 2001, 2351 women (15–49) resident in Scotland were born in an FGM practicing country
 - ▶ 2403 girls were born in Scotland to women from FGM practicing countries.
 - ▶ However data from 2011 census show that the number of African's living in Scotland have doubled since.
 - ▶ Number of immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees increases in Scotland so does the number of young women entering Scotland from FGM practising cultures has increased dramatically.
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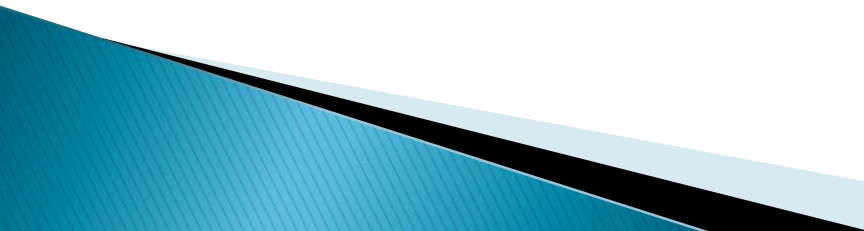
FGM: Why Does it Happen?

- Honour – controlling women's sexuality, calm
 - Traditional 'rite of passage'; a 'celebration' of 'becoming a woman' (girls not told & not to talk)
 - Misconceptions of religious requirement
 - Beliefs about hygiene and aesthetics
 - Gender and cultural identity
 - Social acceptance
- 

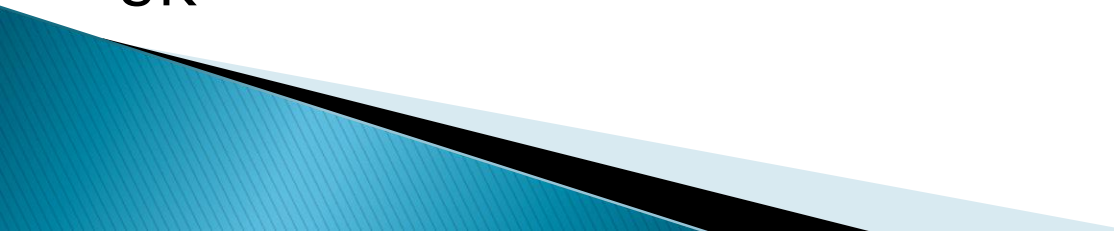
Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a criminal offence
- FGM under the act refers to
 - a) Excising
 - b) infibulating or
 - c) otherwise mutilating

Any part of the labia majora, labia minora, prepuce of the clitoris, clitoris or vagina of another person.



It is an Offence

- For any person to perform FGM in Scotland and rest of the United Kingdom (UK)
 - To perform FGM outside of the United Kingdom by a UK national or a permanent resident of the UK
 - To aid, abet, counsel, procure or incite
 - a) another person in Scotland to commit FGM in Scotland
 - b) another person in Scotland to commit FGM on themselves
 - c) another person to commit FGM outside of Scotland, UK
- 

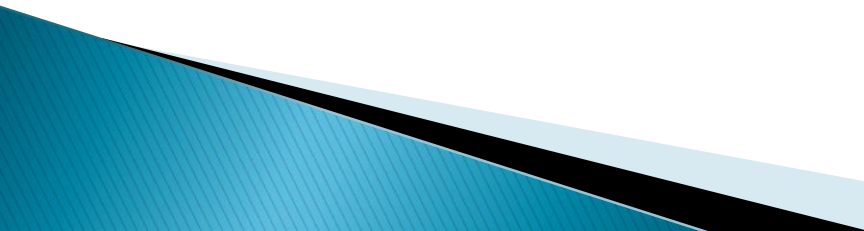
Identifying girls and women at Risk of FGM

- ▶ Frontline officers who may work with children need to be alert to the possibility of a girl or woman being at risk of FGM, or already having undergone FGM
- ▶ There are a range of potential indicators that a child or young person may be at risk of FGM

Potential Indicators that girls/women may be at risk of FGM

- ▶ Any girl born to a woman or has siblings who have been subjected to FGM is considered at risk– (Frontline questioning.

Victims of FGM are likely to come from a community that is known to practise FGM

- ▶ Parents wishing to take girl to their country of origin where FGM is performed; reverse travel now.
 - ▶ A girl may talk about a prolong holiday and talks about parties and ceremonies
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Warning signs that FGM has already occurred

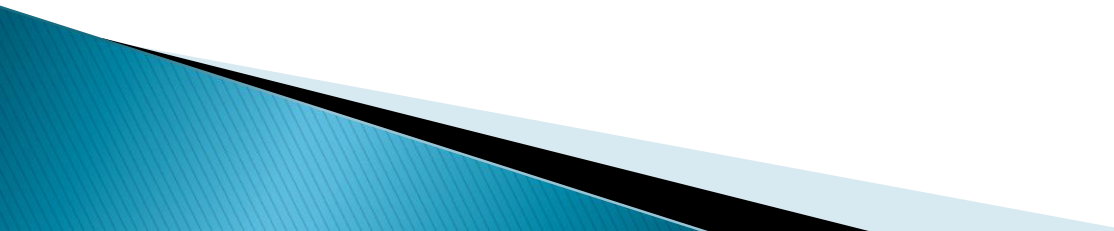
- ▶ Prolong or repeated absence from school kids just come, regular in school and it takes ages to heal.
 - ▶ Sudden change in behaviour (refusal to take part in physical exercise, withdrawal etc.)
 - ▶ Reluctant to have normal examination
 - ▶ Recurrent infections
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Child Protection

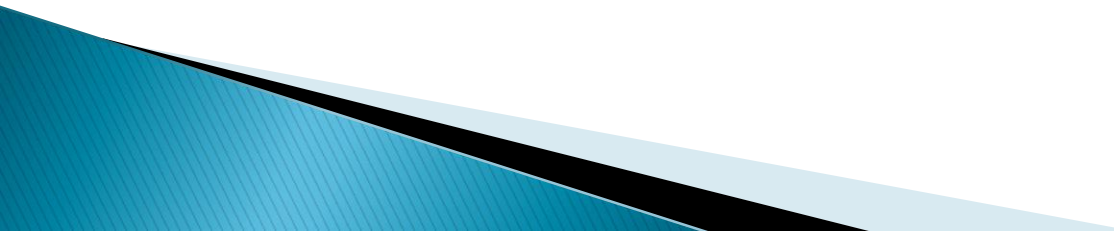
If you suspect that any girl is at risk of being subjected to any form of FGM, take action to report it immediately.

- **Ring your local Social Services Department**
- **Ring your local Police Child Protection Unit**

Labels– of 'tradition' 'culture' 'religion' or fear of being racist!



Good Practice to follow

- ▶ Be sensitive to the intimate nature of the subject
 - ▶ DO listen to the language used and/or use appropriate language when approached with a case of FGM
 - ▶ Use female interpreter– ethics...?
 - ▶ FGM is illegal in the UK so women and girls may be scared about incriminating family members/ loyalty to parents.
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FGM: Good Practice

Note; FGM not always referred to as such in practising communities: called cutting or circumcision or local terms such as “Tahoor” (Sudan), “Kutairi” (Kenya) or “Ibi” (Nigeria), Kartana (Kurdistan).

- ▶ Don't make assumptions about a woman's feelings about having gone through FGM

Further Reading

- ▶ FORWARD. 2006. Definitions and Terms for Female Genital Mutilation. FORWARD (online). Available at:
<http://www.forwarduk.org.uk/keyissues/fgm/definitions>
- ▶ HM Government. 2011. *Female genital mutilation: multi-agency practice guidelines*. Department of Health (online). Available from:
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH>

Thank you for listening!!!

