

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

February 2023

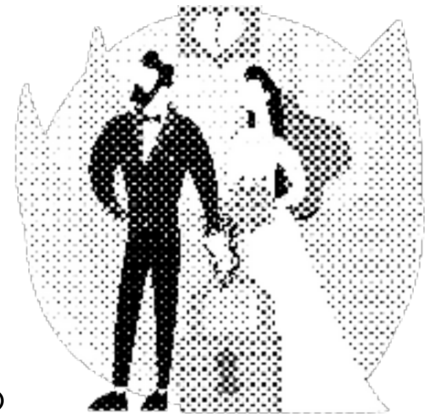


FORCED AND ARRANGED MARRIAGE

What is forced marriage?

Any person may be forced into marriage – this includes people of all ages, genders, ethnicities and religions.

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not or cannot consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used to force them into the marriage. Forced marriage is illegal in the UK. It is a form of abuse directed towards a child or vulnerable adult, including adults who are forced into marriage against their will.

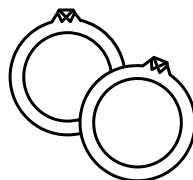


Forcing someone to marry isn't always physical, but it is always against the law.

The pressure put on a person to marry can take different forms:

- Physical pressure might take the form of threats or violence (including sexual violence)
- Emotional or psychological pressure might take the form of making someone feel they are bringing shame on their family, making them believe that those close to them may become vulnerable to illness if they don't marry, or denying them freedom or money unless they agree to marriage.

In some cases people may be taken abroad without knowing they are to be married. When they arrive in that country, their passport(s) / travel documents may be taken to try to stop them from returning to the UK.



Changes to the law:

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 comes into force on Monday 27 February 2023. Under existing law, people can enter a marriage or civil partnership at age 18, or 16 to 17 with parental or judicial consent.

The Act raises the minimum marriage and civil partnership age to 18, removing all consent requirements.

The Act extends existing forced marriage legislation, so it will be an offence to carry out any conduct causing a child to marry before their eighteenth birthday, even if violence, threats or another form of coercion aren't used.



What is an arranged marriage?

An arranged marriage is not the same as a forced marriage. In an arranged marriage, the families take a leading role in choosing the marriage partner, but both individuals are free to choose whether they want to enter the marriage.

If you would like more information on forced marriage then you can complete this free course

www.virtual-college.co.uk/resources/free-courses/awareness-of-forced-marriage

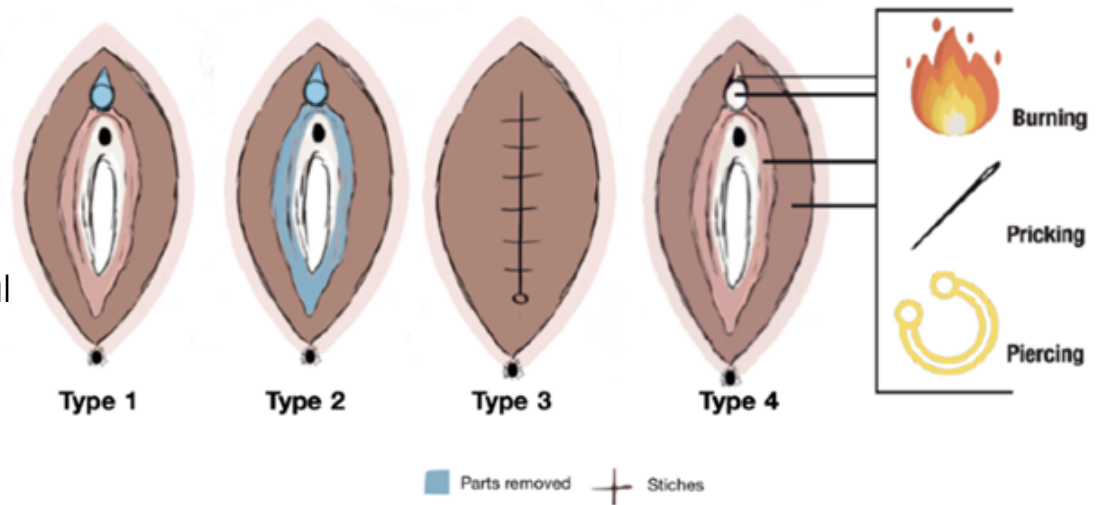


Female Genital Mutilation - FGM

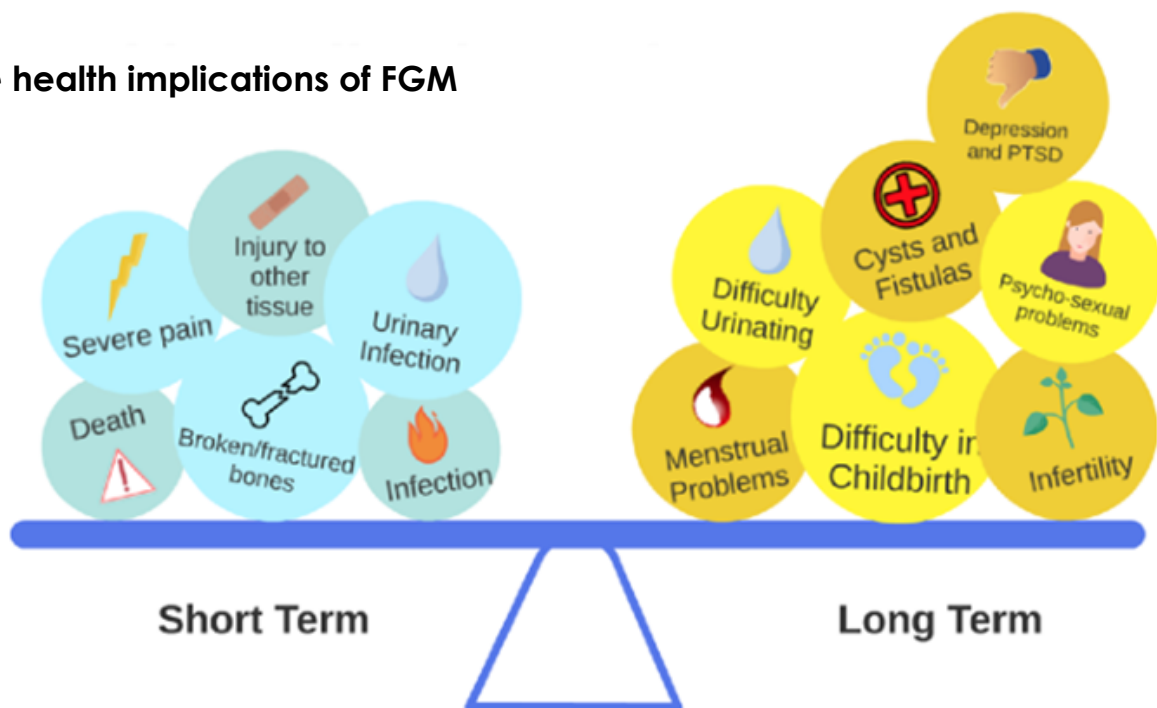
A recent study revealed that 137,000 women in England and Wales are estimated to be living with the consequences of FGM.

What is FGM?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.



Possible health implications of FGM



FGM can happen anywhere in the world, but most commonly, it is practised in parts of Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America.

The mandatory reporting duty for FGM requires teachers to report known cases of FGM in under 18-year-olds to the police on 101.



High risk indicators



A **girl** discloses she has undergone FGM (if under 18, mandatory reporting applies)



A **parent/carer** discloses they believe FGM is a requirement and/or indicates they plan to arrange FGM for their daughter.



A girl has an **older sibling/cousin** who has already undergone FGM.



A **girl/sibling/cousin/third party** discloses she or another girl is at risk of FGM or has undergone FGM.

Other risk indicators



A girl discloses she is **worried** about a **holiday** and/or **up-coming ceremony/coming of age party**



A girl returns from a holiday and appears to be in **pain or discomfort**, or is **absent** from school



Parent(s)/carer(s) are going on holiday (to a country of prevalence) and **are** reluctant to discuss the details of the holiday with the school



A girl's **behaviour changes**. She becomes withdrawn, depressed and doesn't take part in usual activities



A girl has **not returned from a holiday** when she was supposed to, especially from a country where FGM is practiced

If you have any concerns about FGM happening you must alert the Safeguarding team or report it to the Police.

If you would like more information on FGM you can complete the following course:

www.virtual-college.co.uk/resources/free-courses/recognising-and-preventing-fgm



KEY REMINDERS

- Please complete the certificate on Anxiety & Stress on the National Online Safety portal
- Lanyards must be worn at all times.
- Please ensure you sign in and out of school at all times.
- Do not let visitors follow you into reception behind you as you walk in
- You must lock your computer screen when you walk away from your device

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Andy Turner

Deputy DSL (DDSL): Rosa Flanagan



 ST MARY'S COLLEGE <small>Crested Avenue, HULL, HU6 7TN Tel: 01482 891000 www.stmarys-hull.org</small>		Designated Safeguarding Lead : Mr A Turner 	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss R Flanagan 
Safeguarding Officer Mrs S Appleyard 	Safeguarding Officer Mrs N Gibbon 	Safeguarding Officer Miss K Leathley 	SMG Safeguarding Lead Mrs R Lusham 
		SMG Safeguarding Assistant Miss M Routh 	

World Class Thinking - World Class Achieving