

## FURTHER READING

An analysis of female circumcision according to Islamic law – <http://www.alislam.org/e/203>

<http://www.alislam.org/library/WOMANINISLAM.pdf>

[http://www.who.int/topics/female\\_genital\\_mutilation/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/female_genital_mutilation/en/)

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT77/006/1997>

<http://www.un.org/geninfo/faq/factsheets/FS3.HTM>

<http://www.forwarduk.org.uk/key-issues/fgm>

<http://www.infoforhealth.org/pr/j41/j41fgm4.shtml>

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/2313097.html>

[www.alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org)

[www.loveforallhatredfornone.org](http://www.loveforallhatredfornone.org)

### **LAJNA IMAILLAH UK** (Women's Auxiliary Organisation)

Baitul Nusrat (Head Office)  
75 Gressenhall Road  
London, SW18 5QH

**Tel:** 020 8875 4107 **Fax:** 020 8874 4815

**Email:** [lajnaukinformation@googlemail.com](mailto:lajnaukinformation@googlemail.com)  
[www.lajnaimailah.org.uk](http://www.lajnaimailah.org.uk) [www.alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org)

### **MTA International**

16 Gressenhall Road  
London, SW18 5QL

**Tel:** 020 8870 0922 **Fax:** 020 8870 0684

**Email:** [faithmatters@mta.tv](mailto:faithmatters@mta.tv)  
SKY channel 787 or [www.mta.tv](http://www.mta.tv)

### **Head Office: The London Mosque**

16 Gressenhall Road  
London, SW18 5QL

**Tel:** 020 8877 5500  
**Fax:** 020 8874 4779

### **The Baitul Futuh Mosque**

181 London Road  
Morden, SM4 5HF

**Tel:** 0208 8687 7800  
**Fax:** 0208 8687 7899

# Female Circumcision

(FGM)



**NOT**  
**in the**  
**name**  
**of**  
**ISLAM**

*Dispelling the notion of this horrendous and barbaric practice as being associated with the teachings of Islam*

## What is Female Genital Mutilation?

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.

*(World Health Organisation definition)*

# FGM is NOT an Islamic Practice

It has been alleged by some, that FGM is an Islamic practice. These allegations however are completely unfounded and false.

Whilst it is true that FGM is carried out in some countries where there is a large Muslim population, there are no instructions in the Holy Qur'an or in the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that support or provide cover for FGM.

By contrast however, male circumcision which originated from the time of Prophet Abraham (*peace be upon him*) is a required practice in Islam.

The Holy Prophet (*peace and blessings of Allah be upon him*) has explained every matter in Islam regarding all situations plainly and candidly. Therefore, if female circumcision were to be an Islamic practice then surely he would have instructed Muslims to make it a part of their faith.

Therefore with no Qur'anic or Hadith reference instructing women to be circumcised, one can firmly conclude that FGM is NOT an Islamic practice. There is no evidence of female circumcision ever being a part of Islam and those who claim it to be an Islamic practice base it purely on unauthentic traditions. Thus, the practice of FGM is not condoned in Islam in anyway.

## Origins of FGM

Since Egyptian times the barbaric and torturous practice of FGM has been carried out in the Middle East and parts of Africa, and unfortunately still continues today.

It is not entirely known exactly when or where this practice began. However, there are references that date from the fifth century BC (Herodotus) which describe the circumcision of daughters from upper class families in Egypt and Ethiopia.

The age at which girls are subjected to FGM varies widely, depending on the ethnic group or geographical area. FGM is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and adolescence, and occasionally on adult women.

## Why do people carry out this practice?

The reasons behind the practice of FGM are linked to a variety of cultural and social factors within families and communities. Some even erroneously believe it to be a religious practice even though there is no scriptural support for the practice of FGM.

Social pressure appears to be a major reason why this inhumane practice continues. In some communities families may feel that they have to carry out FGM on their girls, as they fear being shunned and stigmatised by

members of their own community, who believe that this practice will makes girls more "desirable" or "suitable for marriage".

FGM is associated with certain cultural ideals of femininity and modesty, which include the notion that girls are "clean" and "beautiful" after removal of body parts that are considered "male" or "unclean".

Within such communities, FGM is considered to be a necessary part of raising a girl properly, and a way to prepare her for adulthood and marriage. Thus, some parents who may be unaware of the consequences and possible complications of FGM allow their daughters to be mutilated as they genuinely believe that this is the best for them.

## ARE THERE ANY HEALTH BENEFITS IN THIS PRACTICE?

There are no health benefits to women who have been circumcised. Instead there can be detrimental physical and psychological consequences:

- Heavy bleeding during or after the operation, which can result in severe anemia and may lead to death from acute, severe blood loss.
- Inexperienced people often carry out these procedures using non-sterile instruments which can cause severe infection, gangrene and sepsis. Additionally young girls may contract severe debilitating blood borne infections such as HIV or Hepatitis B and it can also lead to infertility and recurrent miscarriage.

- This procedure can also cause obstruction of the birth canal, which is both painful and dangerous for mother and baby. It is associated with a high risk of infant mortality.
- The trauma of this procedure puts women at an increased risk of psychiatric disorders such as depression, psychosis and neurosis. They may also suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and report chronic irritability, nightmares and horrors of reliving the procedure. Women subjected to FGM have described feelings of incompleteness, helplessness, inferiority and suppression which affect the rest of their lives.

## CONCLUSION

**The practice of FGM results in millions of young girls and women suffering the pain of unbearable torture and even death. Often, the practice of FGM is carried out wrongfully in the name of Islam, despite the fact that there is no evidence that FGM is an Islamic practice.**

### Reference:

**Utz-Billing and Kentenich (2008)** "Female genital mutilation: an injury, physical and mental harm". *Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 29 (4): 225-229