

**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 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. (World Health Organisation definition)

WHAT ARE THE 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.

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 FGM.

FGM is not a Muslim issue – it is practiced by Jews, Christians, Muslims and others.

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. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had several

daughters and this practice was never mentioned as having occurred or been recommended or encouraged for his daughters.

Before the advent of Islam, women did not have legal rights. Islam gave women legal protection, new found independence, marital and property rights along with spiritual and religious equality with men. Islam is the only religion to have perfectly established these rights for women.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Allah, I declare sinful any failure to safeguard the rights of two weak ones: orphans and women." (Nisai)

With no Quranic 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.

WHY DO SOME PEOPLE PRACTICE FGM?

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 make girls more “desirable” or “suitable for marriage.”

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 best for them.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FGM

In 2012, the UN General Assembly designated February 6th as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, with the aim to amplify and direct the efforts on the elimination of this practice.



ENDING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION BY 2030

“Together, we can eliminate female genital mutilation by 2030. Doing so will have a positive ripple effect on the health, education and economic advancement of girls and women.”

UN Secretary-General António Guterres

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.

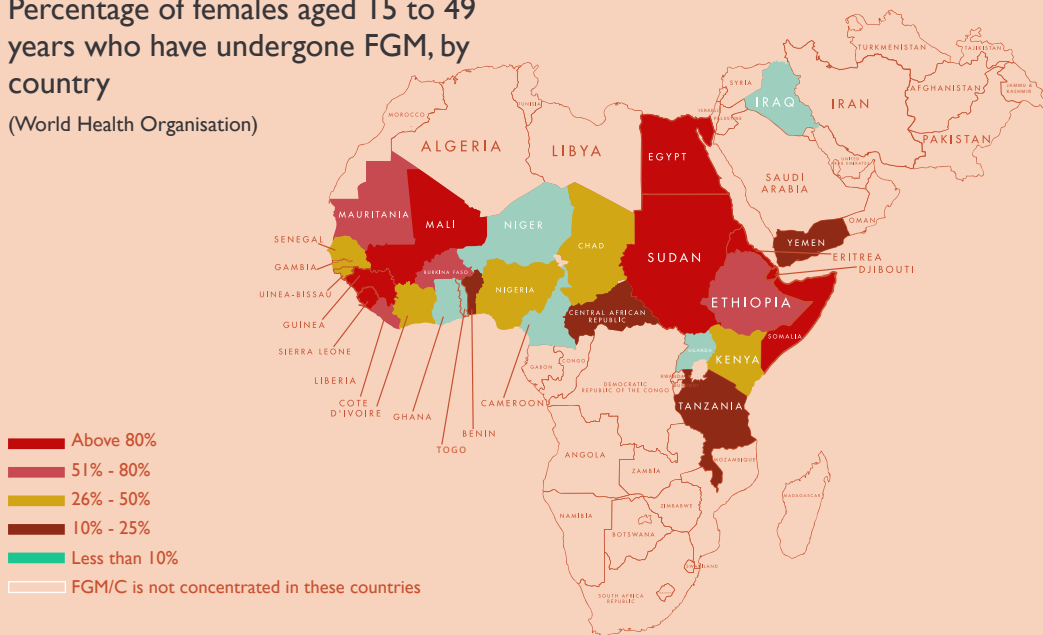
Additionally young girls may contract severe debilitating blood borne infections such as HIV or Hepatitis B and it can also lead to infertility and recurrent miscarriage.

- 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.

PREVALENCE OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Percentage of females aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone FGM, by country

(World Health Organisation)



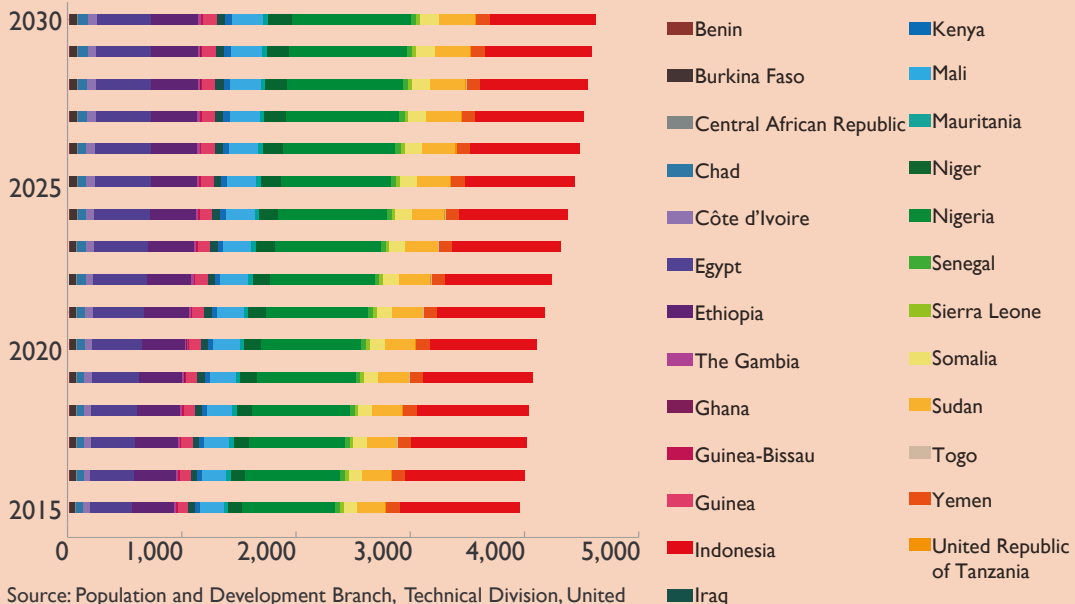
DID YOU KNOW?

- It has been estimated that more than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM in countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia
- FGM is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15
- In countries where it is a common practice, young people aged 15–19 are less supportive of FGM than women aged 45–49
- FGM is a form of child abuse and illegal in the UK. Anyone who performs FGM can face up to 14 years in prison and anyone found guilty of failing to protect a girl from FGM can face up to 7 years in prison
- FGM is a violation of the human rights of girls and women

Sources: www.who.int & www.nhs.uk

NEW DATA SHOWS THE NUMBERS ARE LARGER AND INCREASING.

Number of girls expected to have FGM per year, by country, in millions.



Source: Population and Development Branch, Technical Division, United Nations Population Fund

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY WAS FOUNDED IN 1889 BY THE PROMISED MESSIAH, HIS HOLINESS HAZRAT MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD OF QADIAN, (PEACE BE UPON HIM), WHOSE MISSION IT WAS TO REMOVE MISINTERPRETATIONS AND REVIVE THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM, ENGENDERING IN PEOPLE'S HEARTS THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE DUTY TO SERVE MANKIND.

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY ADVOCATES FOR THE EQUALITY, EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. THE COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS CONDEMNED THE BARBARIC PRACTICE OF FGM AND IT IS ACTIVELY RAISING AWARENESS THAT FGM IS NOT AN ISLAMIC PRACTICE. IT IS COMMITTED TO WORK WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES TO UPROOT THIS PRACTICE AND IT STANDS UNITED AROUND THE WORLD CONVEYING A KEY MESSAGE: 'FGM- NOT IN THE NAME OF ISLAM'

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION UK

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, ALSO KNOWN AS LAJNA IMA'ILLAH (MAID SERVANTS OF ALLAH), IS THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY ORGANISATION OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY. IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1922 BY THE SECOND SUCCESSOR TO THE PROMISED MESSIAH (PEACE BE ON HIM) HIS HOLINESS HAZRAT MIRZA BASHIRUDDIN MAHMUD AHMAD (MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HIM). IT IS AN EMPOWERED WOMEN'S ORGANISATION WHOSE MAIN GOAL IS TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR EDUCATION AMONGST WOMEN AND TO SUPPORT THOSE LACKING IN THESE AREAS AND HELP THEM IN THE SPIRIT OF SISTERHOOD.



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