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What is FGM?

Female Genital Mutilation is classified into four major types.

Type I - 'Clitoridectomy which is the partial or total removal of the clitoris and, in rare cases, the prepuce (the fold of skin surrounding the clitoris);

Type II - Excision which is the partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (the labia are the 'lips' that surround the vagina);

Type III - Infibulation, which is the narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal. The seal is formed by cutting and repositioning the inner, and sometimes outer, labia, with or without removal of the clitoris;

Type IV - All other types of harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g. pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterising the genital area.



The National FGM Centre Risk Assessment Tool

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Who Practises FGM?

FGM is practised around the world in various forms across all major faiths. Today it has been estimated that currently, about 3 million girls, most of them under 15 years of age, undergo the procedure every year. The majority of FGM takes place in 29 African and Middle Eastern countries, and also includes other parts of the world; Middle East, Asia, and in industrialised nations through migration which includes; Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand.

Globally the WHO estimates that between 100 and 140 million girls and women worldwide have been subjected to one of the first 3 types of female genital mutilation.

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The National FGM Centre Website & Helplines

- The National FGM Centre website also contains useful information including an interactive country of origin map, which gives useful and accurate information in respect of affected communities, prevalence rates and local terminology throughout the world. <http://www.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk>
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) FGM Helpline 24-hour Helpline. Freephone 0800 028 3550
- Black Association of Women Step Out (BAWSO) - 24-hour Helpline: 0800 731 8147
- For more information on FGM please visit <https://www.cysur.wales/exploitation/fgm/>



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The Purpose of the FGM Assessment Tool

The National FGM Centre Risk Assessment Tool is an online resource designed for use by social workers but it can also be used as a multi-agency resource. It can be accessed via a web browser and as such, can be completed in any location using any digital device. It is used to assist with assessing risk; highlighting areas for further exploration and suggesting safeguarding options where FGM is a concern.

The tool has two elements: [Best Practice Guidance](#) and the Online FGM Assessment Tool.

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Online FGM Assessment Tool

Based on the information provided, the Online FGM Assessment Tool generates a suggested risk level and suggests safeguarding options to be considered. It is designed to inform decisions and provide recommendations and must **not under any circumstances replace a professional risk assessment**. It usually takes about 15 minutes to complete.

<https://assessment.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/>

For more information on this national Tool, please refer to this [FGM Guidance Document](#) by Dyfed-Powys Police, endorsed by the Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board.

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Best Practice Guidance

The FGM Risk assessment Tool (FGM RAT) should be used upon receipt of any safeguarding concern in relation to FGM and adhere to suggested best practice as follows:

- To be completed jointly by police and social worker at the point of or prior to the strategy discussion.
- To be used to help inform decisions and make recommendations.
- The printed risk assessment can be presented to the court and used to assist with an application for an FGM protection order if required.
- The RAT can be repeated at any time to reassess the risk as circumstances change (e.g. following intervention). Each additional RAT completed must also be recorded appropriately (either by social services or by the police on the crime log and the PROTECT record as appropriate).

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How to use the Tool

The tool can be used throughout your intervention with a family.

- 'Reviewing the Referral' will take you through what information to research and consider before visiting the family.
- 'Gathering Information' will take you through the questions and activities you can go through with the family and it is advised that you familiarise yourself with this before visiting the family.
- The 'Online FGM Assessment' can be filled out after your visit, based on the information you have collected. The online Assessment will give you a risk level and guidance on what areas of risk/safety need to be improved or reduced to safeguard the individual.
- 'Next Steps' covers further reflections, analyses and safety planning.