

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Please note, this is a sensitive topic that impacts many people. If you find that this has caused you any upset or distress, please stop and seek appropriate support or feel free to reach out to the Safeguarding team.

Safeguarding support options

Ways to access support if you are worried for yourself or someone else:

- Email safeguarding@qa.com
- Complete a [Safeguarding Self-Referral Form](#) if the concern relates to you.
- Complete a [Safeguarding Referral Form](#) if you are worried about someone else.



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What is Female genital mutilation (FGM)?

Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision, is the partial or full cutting of a girl's clitoris and labia, for non-medical reasons. FGM is most often practised on girls (between infancy and 15 years of age) but can occur across the life course of girls and women – some girls being cut when they are born and some women experiencing it after marriage.

The procedure has severe physical, psychological, and social consequences for the rest of the girls' lives – and can cause complications and pain during pregnancy and childbirth; pain during sex; difficulties urinating or menstruating, incontinence, psychological problems and trauma. (For more information visit [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\) | ActionAid UK](#)).

FGM/C IS GLOBAL

FGM/C is present in at least 92 countries around the world.



Source: FGM/C: A Call For A Global Response (2020) Equality Now, End FGM EU Network, US End FGM/C Network

Signs FGM at risk

- The family indicate that there are strong levels of influence held by pro-FGM elders who are involved in bringing up female children.
- A girl/family has limited level of integration within UK community.
- A girl from a practising community is withdrawn from PSHE and/or sex and relationship education or its equivalent. They may be at risk as a result of their parents wishing to keep them uninformed about their body, FGM and their rights.
- If there are references to FGM in conversation, for example a girl may tell other children about it.
- A girl may confide that she is to have a 'special procedure' or to attend a special occasion to 'become a woman'.
- A girl may request help from a teacher or another adult if she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk.
- Parents state that they or a relative will take the child out of the country for a prolonged period and are misleading about why.
- A girl is taken abroad to a country with high prevalence of FGM, especially during the summer holidays which is known as the 'cutting season'.

To learn more –follow this link <http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/fgm/>

Who to contact and how can they help

If anyone (yourself, someone in your family or anyone you know) is at immediate risk of FGM call the police on 999.

For further help, the following services are here to help you:

NSPCC

[Female Genital Mutilation - Prevent & Protect | NSPCC](#)

For those who are worried about a child potentially at risk of FGM (or at risk themselves) the NSPCC 24-hour anonymous helpline can provide support 0800 028 3550 or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

The Dahlia Project

The Dahlia Project is a specialist service for women and girls in the UK who have undergone FGM and provide therapeutic support groups.

dahliaproject.org

National FGM Centre

[National FGM Centre – Developing excellence in response to FGM and other Harmful Practices](#)

Activity - Video

This film raises awareness of, and fights for cultural change on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by capturing young people's voices and views on this issue to support intergenerational conversations within a range of different communities and contexts

[Voices Over Silence: A Youth Call to Action on FGM](#)



Questions:

1. What is FGM?
2. What are some of the signs a girl is at risk of FGM?
3. Does it only happen to young girls?
4. Where can someone go for help?



Further Resources

Visit our learner portal for Information, advice and activities to help prioritise your wellbeing during your apprenticeship programme, including workload management, handling stress, and external support services. [Apprentice learner's portal](#)

Reminder:

For safeguarding support please contact safeguarding@qa.com for further advice and support or make a referral via these links:

- [Staff/Employer/Peer Referral](#)
- [Learner Self-Referral](#)
- [Low level & Behavioural Concern](#)

