

# HOT TOPICS – FEBRUARY 2023

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION DAY

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION DAY TAKES PLACE ON 6 FEBRUARY 2023

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a criminal offence under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.**

So, what do you know about FGM?



“Female genital mutilation (FGM) is painful. It has no health benefits. And it can even cause death.

FGM refers to all forms of removing the external female genitalia, as well as other injuries to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM can cause life-long consequences including serious pain and bleeding. In some cases, the procedure can even lead to death. Which is why the outdated practice is recognised as a human rights violation” [Source: [Sponsor a girl, help put an end to FGM | World Vision UK](#)]



Click the icon on the left to watch a short video (2m 58s) to develop your understanding of FGM and the impact that it has on its victims.

“FGM can have severe consequences psychologically, emotionally and medically. It can include extreme pain, shock, infection, haemorrhage, infertility, incontinence, HIV, urinary tract infections, menstrual obstruction, and death.

There are no health benefits to FGM. It involves removing and damaging healthy and normal female genital tissue and interferes with the natural functions of women’s bodies for the rest of their lives

FGM is classified into four main types:

type 1: partial or total removal of the clitoris or clitoral hood

type 2: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minor

type 3: narrowing of the vaginal opening by creating a covering seal, formed by cutting and sewing over the outer labia

type 4: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, for example pricking, piercing, incising, scraping, stretching or cauterising the genital area”

[Source: [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\) | Metropolitan Police](#)]

“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”.



[Source: [International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation | United Nations](#)]

The Home Office have produced a leaflet that gives some important facts about FGM. The leaflet can be accessed here: [Female genital mutilation: the facts - GOV.UK](#)



You will learn about FGM during your training; however, this Hot Topic is intended to help you to consider how this emotive subject sits with British Values, Human Rights legislation, and the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010.



Thinking about what you have read in this Hot Topic, discuss with your PDC how this important issue may impact upon your role as a police officer. Consider specifically how British Values, Human Rights and the Equality Act address FGM.

The following sources provide further information about FGM:

[International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation | United Nations](#)

[Sponsor a girl, help put an end to FGM | World Vision UK](#)

[Female genital mutilation \(FGM\) | Metropolitan Police](#)

[Female genital mutilation | College of Policing](#)

[Statement opposing female genital mutilation - GOV.UK](#)

[\(www.gov.uk\)](#)

If you have been affected by any of the issues covered in this Hot Topic, please discuss your concerns with your PDC, HEI staff or your line manager in the first instance