

# TITLE – FGM and the law

DATE:



By the end of the lesson,  
students will be able to

- I can explain what **FGM** stands for
- I can understand why **FGM is harmful and a violation of rights**
- I can explain that **FGM is illegal in the UK**
- I can identify **how and where to get help** if they are worried about themselves or others

Today's content is of a serious nature. You do not need to share personal stories.  
If anything worries you, support is available.

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3 Minutes

TODAY'S  
BIG  
QUESTION

Why is it important to understand our own rights?

- What does “rights” mean?
- Who protects our rights?
- What could happen if people don’t know their rights?

# What are rights?

- Everyone has **human rights**

This includes the right to:

- Be safe
  - Be listened to
  - Make choices about your own body
- 
- These rights apply **to all children and young people**





## TIME TO TALK

In pair's please discuss what you think FGM stands for  
and if you think it goes against a persons rights  
Label yourselves A & B

*Sentence starters:*

- *FGM stands for...*
- *I think FGM means...*
- *From what we've learned, FGM is...*
- *The letters F, G and M stand for...*
- *FGM is a term used to describe...*




# FGM is Female Genital Mutilation

**Female** means girl

**Genital** means the private parts

**Mutilation** is when something is removed or hurt



So female genital mutilation is where some parts of a girl's private area are removed or injured



# FGM happens all around the world



# What is FGM? (add notes on page 21)

- FGM stands for Female Genital Mutilation
- It involves **harm to female genitalia**
- It is done **for cultural reasons**, not medical ones
- It **causes harm and violates human rights**
- It is illegal in the UK





# Rights or Not?

Looking in your booklets on page 21 you have different scenarios.

In pairs can you decide if the scenario respects a person's rights or not.

Challenge = can you justify why you think that?

- A young person is forced to do something to their body they don't want
- Someone is allowed to say no to medical treatment
- A decision is made about a child's body without their consent
- A young person is taken abroad to be harmed

# The Law and Protection

- FGM is **illegal in the UK**
- It is illegal **even if it happens abroad**
- The law exists to **protect children**
- Professionals (teachers, doctors) must act to keep people safe

The law is there to help and protect — not to punish young people.



And at least 200 million girls and women are estimated to have undergone FGM worldwide - although the true number can never be known because it is hidden from society

# What does the law say about FGM?

1

Its illegal to perform FGM on a girl in the UK

2

its illegal to take a girl abroad to have FGM done

3

its illegal to help someone to organise FGM, or even force a girl to perform FGM on herself

Breaking the  
law on FGM  
can lead to 14  
years in prison!



No one else has the right to  
purposely hurt or change anyone  
else's body, because all people have  
the right to not be hurt by others





Control behaviour - one of the main reasons for practicing FGM is to control the behaviour and bodies of girls and women



FGM being seen as a rite of passage for girls into womanhood



FGM being used to stop girls and women from forming intimate

## Why is done to some girls and women around the world?



Dowry - in some FGM affected communities, a man has to pay the girls family for marrying her. If the girl has had FGM, her family could receive more money as they believe it confirms she is a 'virgin'



Beliefs that FGM is a religious requirement (it's not in any religious text!)



But remember, whilst some people justify FGM, it has no health benefits, and it only causes harm

# What should you do? - small group discussion

## Scenario

A friend tells you they are worried about being taken out of the country for something they don't understand.

## Discussion prompts:

- What might they be feeling?
- What **shouldn't** you promise?
- Who could help?

# STAYING SAFE

Never stay silent! Any teacher, or other trusted adults in the school can help, or even another trusted adult outside of school could help too

The NSPCC Childline helpline is available 24/7 to call 0800 028 3550. They talk to lots of children about anything that is worrying them

But in any emergency, everyone should call 999

# Reflection

(PAGE 23)

- Students write privately:
- *If someone was worried about their safety or rights, what advice would you give them?*

It's always okay  
to seek support