

## **TOGETHER WE CAN END FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**

Female genital mutilation, female circumcision or 'cutting' may cause serious health consequences that last a lifetime. It's also illegal under UK law.

Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However, FGM is child abuse. It's dangerous and a criminal offence.

There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It doesn't enhance fertility and it doesn't make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

FGM has been a criminal offence in the UK since 1985. In 2003 it also became a criminal offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to take their child abroad to have female genital mutilation. Anyone found guilty of the offence faces a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.

You can stop it. For advice, support or to report it call the free 24 hour anonymous FGM helpline: 0800 028 3550.

For further information visit the web site [www.nspcc.org.uk/fgm](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/fgm)