

# Guidance for Schools and Colleges

Safeguarding children from

**Sexual Violence**

**Child Sexual Exploitation**

**Harmful Practices**



## Foreword from Commander Sue Williams

### Metropolitan Police Service, Head of Profession for Safeguarding

I am delighted to present the MPS Guidance for Schools and Colleges: Safeguarding Children from Sexual Violence, Child Sexual Exploitation and Harmful Practices. The aim of this guidance is to safeguard our most vulnerable people and empower professionals to make a difference in protecting London's younger communities by creating opportunities for professionals to achieve excellence in safeguarding those who need it most.

We recognise schools and colleges play a vital role in our communities. They are themselves a community, as teachers, pupils and those involved in their governance and administration share common goals that include helping to keep young people safe.

This comprehensive and easy to follow guide explores a number of threats and trends, including harmful practices, sexual violence, indecent images of children and child sexual exploitation. I know that the response to these issues is a challenge for all concerned and this guidance will assist colleagues working with young people.

The guidance explores these issues from a practical policing perspective. It highlights how the relevant legislation works and what the police response may look like, as well as identifying warning signs for schools to assist them to respond effectively within their existing referral pathways.

We accept that we do not have all the answers as the issues are complex and multifaceted. What we can do is generate an open discussion on the response to these sensitive issues and promote the sharing of information and best practice to encourage collaboration between all those working to safeguard young people.

I hope that you find the guidance to be a useful tool and that this will help us to work together more effectively to keep our young people in London safe.



**Commander Sue Williams**

## Foreword by Matt Miller MBE National Leader of Governance Advocate

Safeguarding is never far from our thoughts whether we are paid professionals working in schools and colleges, or serving there as volunteers, like governors. Yet, with each passing year and in spite of unprecedented attention, safeguarding presents even more challenges to those who seek to keep our children and young people safe from harm.

It is not simply enough to provide a safe learning environment; we must also consider the risks that extend beyond the school gate and after the school bell. We must keep pace with the growing threats posed by those who peddle their poison around the clock through the internet and social media sites. We must take action to prevent sexualised behaviour between peers in or out of school becoming the new norm. We must be vigilant to the signs and indicators which suggest a pupil might be at risk of radicalisation, or child sexual exploitation, or modern-day slavery, or female genital mutilation, or forced marriage or witchcraft. The list seems endless, but above all, we must never take our eye off the ball.

We live in an increasingly diverse world where tolerance and respect for our differing cultures and beliefs lie at the heart of our communities. This means that we need to listen, understand and educate what is right and what is wrong and stand by the values which enable our young people to flourish. We also need to have the confidence and courage to stand up against those who deal in harm, not just the ubiquitous predators who target the vulnerable, but the less obvious; those who hide behind the veil of so-called honour or faith to wreak misery.

This Guidance provides far more than a compendium of offences and unlawful practices, as helpful as that is. It also provides insight and practical guidance on how to deal with the type of concerns which are often problematical, but not necessarily criminal, in schools such as 'sexting', an unintended by-product of the digital age. It also helps us to see what may be happening in plain sight but is not immediately obvious, particularly in terms of harmful practices which may not be recognisable but are nevertheless equally devastating to victims. It makes us think and reflect on how we could improve further still, with the '*Schools Charter on Ending Harmful Practices*' providing a rigorous benchmark against which schools and colleges can review their safeguarding practices and protocols.

Above all, this Guidance demonstrates how law enforcement and education can lock arms in promoting the highest standards of safeguarding through the sharing of professional knowledge and practices. Having served as a school governor for 20 years in many different schools, I highly commend this Guidance to all those who uphold the words of William Wilberforce, "You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know."

## Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief

Abuse linked with belief is where concerns for a child's welfare have been identified and a belief in witchcraft, spirit or demonic possession, ritual or satanic abuse features, or when practice linked to faith or belief are harmful.

Globally, beliefs in the spiritual realm and of malevolent forces are common. There is nothing wrong with these beliefs. What is unacceptable is any abuse that takes place against those who are branded (or labelled) either as a witch or as having being possessed by an evil spirit.

Significant harm (including murder) can occur because of concerted efforts to 'excise' or 'deliver' evil from a child (or vulnerable adult). Spotting the signs that this abuse exists can prevent escalation from 'subtle' harms that may often go unnoticed by many, to 'extreme' situations where there is loss of life.

Witchcraft beliefs are used to blame a person (rather than circumstances) for misfortune that happens in life.

Children believed to be possessed and/or accused of witchcraft have been subjected to serious levels of abuse which can include:

- **Physical Abuse:** beating, shaking, burning, cutting, stabbing, semi-strangulation, tying up, rubbing chilli peppers or other substances into genitals, eyes or mouth.
- **Emotional/Psychological Abuse:** enforced isolation, threats of abandonment, convincing the child that they are evil or are possessed.
- **Neglect:** failure to provide appropriate medical care, hygiene, nourishment, clothing or warmth; or to ensure sufficient supervision or school attendance
- **Sexual Abuse:** children may be particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and may feel powerless or worthless and that they won't be believed.

Escalation of the cruelty and brutality the children endure is often rapid from the point they are accused.

It is important to recognise that even the response to a child being labelled is non-violent it could be an unpleasant and frightening experience for children.

Sometimes parents/carers may access websites that provide advice on how to deliver or protect children from evil spirits or witchcraft.

Children are also taken overseas to be 'cured', so there is also a flight risk to consider.

It is important to think about other children within the household who are not themselves accused. Case reviews have shown that they are also at risk of being (or have been) harmed, when another child has been accused.

## Children at risk

Those vulnerable to accusation of witchcraft or spirit possession can be of any age (including unborn children). Children born with physical disability, breech births, even twins may be at risk. Epilepsy, autism, learning difficulties, behavioural problems and bedwetting could indicate spirit possession or witchcraft in the mind of an abuser. Often a child will be used as a scapegoat and blamed for death, illness, separation, financial difficulty or any misfortune experienced within the household or community. Trafficked children or those in private fostering arrangements often can be more vulnerable to accusations. Both boys and girls are equally at risk of being accused.

Families and guardians sometimes make their own 'diagnosis' and devise their own methods of deliverance, but often suspicions of witchcraft or spirit possession are confirmed by a faith leader, usually for a substantial fee. Exorcism or deliverance can be an unpleasant process for a child. It could range of act that can be emotionally abusive and/or involve a violent process which can involve isolating, beating, burning and starving the 'accused'. An important factor to consider is the role of the internet as parents/carers may access advice on websites which provide advice on 'diagnosing' and 'treating' the matter. Some children are known to have been taken overseas to be 'cured', so it is important to consider if there is risk of the child being taken abroad. Case reviews have also highlighted that other children within the family who are not accused have also suffered significant harm when their sibling was accused.

## Identifying children at risk

It is important to remember every child is different. Some children will display a combination of indicators of abuse, whilst others will attempt to conceal them.

Indicators include:

- A child reporting that they are or have been accused of being 'evil', and/or that they are having the 'devil beaten out of them'
- The child or family may use words such as 'kindoki', 'djin', 'juju' or 'voodoo' – all of which refer to spiritual beliefs
- A child wearing items that may indicate protection from evil spirits
- A parent wanting to take the child out of school to be taken overseas for a deliverance/exorcism
- A child disclosing that they are made to be involved in 'rituals' to cleanse them
- A child becoming noticeably confused, withdrawn, disorientated or isolated and appearing alone amongst other children
- A child's personal care deteriorating (e.g. rapid loss of weight, being hungry, turning up to school without food or lunch money, being unkempt with dirty clothes)
- It may be evident that the child's parent or carer does not have a close bond with the child
- Physical injuries such as bruises or burns
- A child's attendance at school or college becomes irregular or there is a deterioration in a child's performance
- A child is taken out of a school altogether without another school place having been arranged

## Things for professionals to consider

Abuse linked to a belief in spirit possession or witchcraft can be hard for professionals to accept, difficult to understand and it can take time to recognise.

Further information on this issue can be found [here](#) at the National FGM Centre's website.

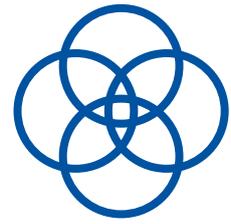
The NSPCC have a dedicated helpline for FGM and Child Abuse Linked to Faith of Belief. Professionals can contact the helpline if they are concerned a child is at risk of abuse linked to faith or belief. The helpline is free and anonymous. It is a 24/7 service: Phone: **0800 028 3550** or by email: [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

It is important to consider the following:

- Provide opportunities for children to discuss issues of faith and belief
- Provide opportunities for parents to discuss their faith or belief
- Ensure organisations renting your premises are fully vetted and they have safeguarding policies in place
- Safeguarding training for staff to include child abuse linked to faith or belief
- Build relationships with places of worship in your local area
- Children in these cases are at risk of being taken overseas, so respond quickly to concerns
- These cases require a multi-agency response, so work in partnership with others and follow safeguarding guidelines
- Access resources for schools on the National FGM Centre's website



Building a relationship of trust with the child to encourage disclosure.



The beliefs of the family and their understanding of them.



Seek advice if necessary, initially from the Child Protection lead, and refer if appropriate.



The family structure to include privately fostered children, biological relationships and extended family.



Reasons the child may be at risk that have not been identified above.



Professional Interpreters taking into consideration their standing in the community, own beliefs, gender, preconceptions, and allegiances.

## Honour Based Abuse

Honour based abuse' (HBA) is an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse), which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and / or community's code of behaviour.

National Police Chiefs Council definition

Honour based abuse is often a child protection issue. Perpetrators of HBA can murder or abuse their closest relatives and/or others for what might seem to those outside of their family or community a trivial transgression.

Evidence shows that these types of murders often involve considerable planning and are sometimes made to look like a suicide, or an accident. A decision to kill may be preceded by a family council. There tends to be a degree of premeditation, family conspiracy and a belief that the victim deserved to die. There is no honour in murder.

Males can also be victims of Honour Based Abuse<sup>8</sup>. This might be as a consequence of their involvement in relationships that are deemed as inappropriate, if they are Lesbian Gay Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT), or **if they are believed to be supporting the victim.**

Relatives (including females) may conspire, aid, abet or participate in the killing. Younger relatives may be selected to undertake the killing in order to avoid senior family members being arrested. Family members may go to extreme lengths to trace and seek the return of family members who have breached their honour code. Once returned they are then at risk of ongoing harm, abuse and possibly death.

<sup>8</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/783996/Male\\_Victims\\_Position\\_Paper\\_Web\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/783996/Male_Victims_Position_Paper_Web_Accessible.pdf)

## Children at risk

Just the perception or rumour of immoral behaviour may be sufficient to harm or kill. Such incidents may include:

- The existence of a boyfriend/girlfriend
- Unsanctioned use of social media
- A child with a learning disability
- Rejecting an arranged marriage
- Pregnancy outside of marriage
- Interfaith relationships
- Public displays of affection (e.g. kissing or intimacy in a public place)
- Coming out or risk of being 'outed' (LGBT matters)
- Making allegations to police, social care or school staff
- Schools informing of poor performance and/or truanting
- Perceived inappropriate make-up or dress

## Signs that a child is being subjected to HBA



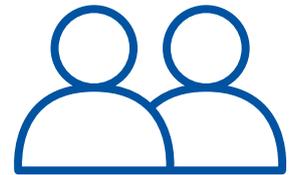
Sudden absence from school (children are withdrawn as punishment or in order that injuries are concealed)



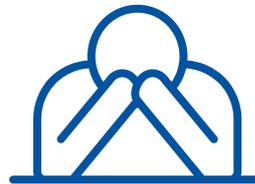
Plans to travel abroad for considerable lengths of time



Withdrawn of access to mobile phone/internet



Not being allowed out unchaperoned



Changes in behaviour/ child becoming withdrawn



Signs of physical abuse

## Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM has been categorised into four types, ranging from a symbolic prick to the clitoris to the fairly extensive removal and narrowing of the vaginal opening.

World Health Organisation

FGM is considered “significant harm” and child abuse in the UK. It is also a human rights violation.

The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 makes it illegal to:

- Practice FGM in the UK
- To take girls who are British nationals or habitual residents of the UK abroad for FGM (irrespective of whether it is lawful in that country or not)
- To aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad

These offences can result in prison sentences of up to 14 years.

There is no religious basis for FGM. FGM is prevalent in over 28 African countries, as well as parts of the Middle East and Asia. Due to migration, it is now a global issue and is taking place in the UK, US, Australia and other countries.

You can find out more about the countries where FGM is taking place by utilising the National FGM Centre interactive FGM [map](#)<sup>9</sup>.

The NHS provide useful online resources that highlight the types of FGM, the effects of FGM and the help available to FGM survivors. This can be accessed [here](#).

According to the 28 Too Many<sup>10</sup> debates continue internationally about the most appropriate terminology to use to refer to procedures for altering the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons.

<sup>9</sup> <http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk>

<sup>10</sup> [FGM and Social Norms: A Guide to Designing Culturally Sensitive Community Programmes – June 2019](#)

Essentially, FGM is known by different names in different communities. The terms used can also point towards the communicator's attitude towards the practice. Most practising communities do not see the practise as mutilation and therefore do not always use the term 'FGM'.

There are numerous other national and local terms (and associated definitions) for the practice across Africa and beyond, including the word sunna (referring to all types except infibulation) in countries such as Somalia and Sudan and local variations such as angurya (the scraping of tissue surrounding the opening of the vagina) and gishiri (cutting of the vagina) in Nigeria.

Sensitivity to language is an essential element of building trust with people in order to understand their perspectives and initiate change. When speaking to affected communities best practice in relation to terminology appears to be **the more neutral, the better**.

For locally specific terminology, please click [here](#).

Terminology for referring to FGM varies between communities, terms could include:

- Female circumcision
- Cutting
- Bondo
- Sunna
- Initiation

## Signs that a girl is at risk of FGM

- A female elder from a practising country is visiting the UK and is present in the family home
- A girl is going on an extended holiday to a practising country or will be continuing her education in a country of origin
- A girl may confide that she is going to have a 'special procedure' 'operation' or small injection
- A girl may confide that she is going to have a 'celebration' or attend a special occasion.
- A girl may confide that she is going to 'become a woman'
- Correcting perceived 'westernised' or 'bad behaviour'
- Parents seeking to withdraw a child from learning about FGM
- A girl comes from a community where FGM is practised. For country specific profiles the '28 Too Many' website<sup>11</sup> is particularly useful and can be viewed [here](#).

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.28toomany.org>

## Indicators that a girl has undergone FGM

- A girl has difficulty walking, sitting or standing and may appear to be uncomfortable
- A girl spends longer than normal in the toilet due to difficulties menstruating/urinating
- A girl has frequent urinary, menstrual or abdominal problems
- There may be frequent absences from school or college
- Withdrawal or depression or significant behavioural change
- A reluctance to undergo medical examinations
- A girl may talk about pain or discomfort between her legs
- A girl may not partake in physical exercise
- The girl may be removed early, before the end of term, prior to a holiday or return late, after the start of a new term
- Unable to wear tights or trousers due to delayed healing
- Broken bones or bruises received from being held down and restrained during the procedure.

For further information on FGM professionals should complete an online FGM e-learning package that can be found on the Home Office website and is available [here](#).

If you're worried a child is at risk of or has already had FGM, you can call the NSPCC dedicated FGM helpline on **0800 028 3550** or email [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk). This is a free and anonymous.

## FGM and Next Steps for Schools and Colleges

Identifying girls who have been subjected to FGM allows for medical interventions to be offered. There are numerous health risks associated with FGM including; blood loss, infection, urine retention, fistula, severe pain and infertility. Siblings of those subject to FGM will also be at risk and appropriate safeguarding action will need to be considered for them.

Discussing FGM can be challenging, as it is a hugely sensitive issue. However, it is vital that professionals are professionally curious and discuss it openly with both children and adults.

NHS Oxford Health Foundation Trust have produced a useful resource to enable conversations on FGM. This is available [here](#).

The National FGM Centre has designed a risk assessment tool for social workers dealing with FGM. This online tool is freely available and can help teachers identify vulnerability and frame their responses when discussing FGM.

The risk assessment tool can be found by clicking [here](#).

## Mandatory Reporting

Mandatory reporting of FGM was introduced on 31st October 2015. All regulated professionals are now required to report either **known** cases of FGM or **disclosed** cases of FGM to girls **under 18**, direct to Police via the **101** telephone reporting system.

For schools and colleges in England, this **duty** applies to qualified teachers or persons who are employed or engaged to carry out teaching work in schools and other institutions.

Known cases of FGM are those that have been 'visibly identified' by a regulated professional and as such will almost exclusively relate to health care professionals.

Disclosed cases are far more likely to apply to education professionals.

If a girl under 18 discloses directly to a regulated professional that she has **had** FGM a report needs to be made to **101** (as soon as possible, within 48 hours) and you will need to include the following information:



Professionals

Name, Role & Contact  
Details



Girls

Name, Date of Birth,  
& Home Address



Organisations

Name, Address &  
Designated Safeguarding  
Lead

The duty to report is a **personal duty**; it cannot be transferred to anyone else.

Mandatory reporting does **not** apply if a child is 'at risk' of being subject to FGM, or the information relating to a child being subject to FGM has not come directly from her in the form of a direct disclosure. In these circumstances, normal safeguarding procedures and existing pathways would apply. If there is an immediate risk of FGM to a child, or other children within the home, then an urgent **999** response should be initiated.

For more information on the Mandatory Reporting Duty click [here](#).

The National Education Union provides advice to its members of Mandatory Reporting of FGM, which can be accessed [here](#).

## Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order's (FGMPO)

FGM Protection Orders protect girls under 18 years but also vulnerable female adults over 18 years.

Examples of the types of orders the court might make are:

- To protect a victim or potential victim from FGM from being taken abroad;
- To order the surrender of passports or any other travel documents, including the passport/travel documentation of the girl to be protected;
- To prohibit specified persons from entering into any arrangements in the UK or abroad for FGM to be performed on the person to be protected;
- To include terms in the order which relate to the conduct of the respondent(s) both inside and outside of England and Wales;

FGMPO's are issued by a small number of family courts due to the specialist nature of the cases. 296 FGMPO's have been obtained in England between October 2015 and September 2018.

Breach of an order is a criminal offence, and the respondent may be arrested if the police believe there is reasonable cause to suspect there is a breach of the order. The offence of breach of an FGM Protection Order is subject to a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment.

The following can apply for an order:

- the person who has had or is at risk of FGM;
- a local authority; or
- any other person with the permission of the court (for example, the police, a teacher, a charity or a family member).

For more information on obtaining an order click [here](#).

## Failure to protect a girl from FGM

The offence of failing to protect a girl from FGM was introduced in October 2015 and is committed against a girl **under the age of 16**. This offence caters for situations where those with responsibility for the girl leave her with family members who then subject her to FGM. The onus is on defendants to demonstrate that there was not a significant risk of FGM, or that they had taken reasonable steps to prevent it happening.

This legislation provides additional support to girls at risk of FGM, particularly when they travel abroad. This offence can result in prison sentences of up to 7 years.

## Forced Marriage (FM)

This is defined as 'a marriage conducted without the valid consent of both parties, and where duress or abuse is a factor.'

There is a clear distinction between a forced marriage and an arranged marriage. In arranged marriages, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage. The choice whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the spouses.

In forced marriage, one or both spouses do not (or in the case of some adults with severe learning disabilities) cannot consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical violence, psychological pressure (for instance made to feel as if they are bringing shame on their family), sexual violence, plus financial and emotional pressure.

In some cases, children and young people may be taken abroad without knowing they are to be married. When they arrive in that country, their passport(s) and /or travel documents may be taken from them to prevent their return to the UK.

### Signs that an individual may be facing Forced Marriage

- Absence or persistent absence from school or college
- Request for extended leave of absence and/or failure to return from travel to country of origin
- Fear about forthcoming school/college holidays
- Surveillance by siblings or cousins in, and/or outside of, school or college
- Decline in behaviour, performance, or punctuality
- Being withdrawn from school by those with parental responsibility
- Removal from a day centre of a person with a physical or learning difficulty
- Prevented from going to further/higher education
- Sudden announcement of engagement to a stranger
- Fear of going home

## Family history that could suggest increased risk of Forced Marriage

- Siblings forced to marry
- Early marriage of siblings
- Self-harm or suicide of siblings
- Death of a parent
- Family disputes
- Running away from home
- Unreasonable restrictions: i.e. kept at home by parents (house arrest) & financial restrictions

## Some reasons why Forced Marriage happen

- Parents belief that religion or culture is being preserved
- Pressure from peers or family members to carry on perceived cultural traditions
- Protecting 'family honour' or 'izzat' (izzat is a universal cultural term roughly translated as 'honour')
- Preventing unwanted relationships outside the ethnicity, culture, religion or caste
- Belief that it will strengthen family links
- Financial gain (land, property, wealth remains within a family )
- Control unwanted behaviour or sexuality (e.g. promiscuity, being lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender (LGBT+), alcohol abuse, drug abuse, wearing make-up and westernised behaviour)
- Settling family disputes (e.g. pay off accumulated debts or compensating for the actions of other family members)
- Assisting claims for country residence
- Obtaining a long term carer for a person with a disability and assistance for aging parents
- Believing the marriage will somehow 'cure' a disability or 'possession/jinn

## Forced Marriage and Next Steps for Schools and Colleges

A referral to the designated safeguarding lead will activate local safeguarding procedures. Advise the child not to travel overseas and suggest that if they fear being forced to travel by plane, guidance from forced marriage charities suggests or contact the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU).

It is important to reassure victims about confidentiality where appropriate (i.e. practitioners will not inform their family of the disclosure). As the risks may be imminent and serious, early involvement of Police may be appropriate so this matter is responded to as an emergency.

Do **not** attempt to mediate or encourage mediation, reconciliation, arbitration with family members as this could put the child at risk.

The [Forced Marriage Unit](#) (FMU)<sup>12</sup> is a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office unit which leads on the government's forced marriage policy, outreach and casework. It operates both inside the UK (where support is provided to any individual) and overseas (where consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals).

Multi-agency guidelines on handling Forced Marriage cases have been developed by the FMU and can be accessed [here](#).

The FMU operates a public helpline to provide advice and support to victims of forced marriage as well as to professionals dealing with cases. The assistance provided ranges from safety advice, through to helping a forced marriage victim prevent their unwanted spouse moving to the UK ('reluctant sponsor' cases). In extreme circumstances the FMU will assist with rescues of victims held against their will overseas.

The FMU can be contacted via telephone: **0207 008 0151 / (+44) (0) 207 008 1500** Global Response Centre (out of hours) or via email: [fmu@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fmu@fco.gov.uk)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage>

The FMU advise that the following information be obtained where possible:

- Name and date of birth as shown on passport
- Passport number (with date and place of issue)
- Overseas contact details and address of where they will be staying
- Number of secret mobile phone taken overseas
- Address and telephone number (including mobile) in the UK
- A recent photograph
- Contact details of a trusted third party in the UK
- Parents' names and address
- Departure and expected return date (copies of tickets if possible)
- Names of those they are travelling with
- Names of any family members remaining in the UK
- Any other useful information such as any secret code words

This will allow authorities to take action and/or place an 'all ports alert' where appropriate.

If the victim has already been taken abroad, give as many details as you can, for example:

- where the person has gone
- when they were due back
- when you last heard from them
- any other useful information (including hearsay)

The FMU will contact the relevant embassy and if they are a British national, the embassy will try to contact the person and help them get back to the UK if that is what they want.

The FMU have developed a free forced marriage e-learning package that can be accessed [here](#).

This course is aimed at all professionals who have a responsibility to safeguard vulnerable children, young people and adults at risk and is aimed specifically at child protection services, health professionals, education professionals, police officers, children's social care, adult social care and housing authorities.

The learning objectives are to:

- Recognise the warning signs of forced marriage
- Take the right actions to help protect the potential victim
- Co-operate effectively with other agencies

## Forced Marriage Legislation

The legislation relating to Forced Marriage is wide ranging in scope. It deals with three main scenarios:

- An individual who fears they may be forced to marry in the UK or overseas
- An individual who has already been forced to marry in the UK or overseas
- A spouse who has come to the UK as a result of a forced marriage

The main elements of the legislation are that:

- It criminalises the act of forcing someone to marry against their will
- It criminalises the act of the luring of a person to a territory of a state for the purpose of forcing them to enter into marriage without consent
- It criminalises the act of using deception with the intention of causing a person to leave the UK with the intention of forcing that person to marry
- If a person lacks the capacity to consent, the offence is also capable of being committed by any conduct carried out for the purpose of causing the victim to marry, whether or not it amounts to violence, threats or any other form of coercion
- It criminalises the breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order

## Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPO)

A Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO) is made for the purposes of protecting

- Someone who has been forced into marriage
- Someone who is facing being forced into marriage

FMPO are heard by the family courts – initially the High Court and a specified number of county courts. Breach of a FMPO is a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine.

The order can include prohibitions, restrictions or requirements to protect a victim from a spouse, family member or anyone involved. Involvement can include aiding, abetting, counseling, procuring, encouraging, or assisting another person to force or attempt to force a person to marry.

Examples of the terms the court might include:

- Surrender of passport or travel documents
- Prevent the victim from being taken abroad
- Stop the forced marriage taking place
- No contact with the victim
- Forbidding harassment, force or threat of force
- Presenting the victim to an Embassy (if already abroad)

You can apply for a forced marriage protection order yourself or if you are one of the following:

- relative or friend
- voluntary worker or someone else official who's been asked for help
- any other person with the permission of the court

Anyone can apply for a court order – even a child under 18. Children do not have to have someone to help them if:

- the court agrees
- they have a legal representative

For more information on FMPO's click [here](#).

## Breast Ironing (also known as Breast Flattening)

Breast Ironing (also known as breast flattening), is the process during which young pubescent girls' breasts are ironed, massaged, flattened and/or pounded down over a period of time (sometimes years) in order for the breasts to disappear or delay the development of the breasts entirely.

In some cases large stones, a hammer or spatula that have been heated over scorching coals can be used to compress the breast tissue. Other methods include the use of an elastic belt or binder to press the breasts so as to prevent them from growing.

Breast ironing usually starts with the first signs of puberty, which can be as young as nine years old and is usually carried out by female relatives.

Breast ironing has been documented primarily in Cameroon but is also practised in Benin, Chad, Ivory Coast, Guinea-Bissau, Togo, Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa. According to United Nations (UN) figures, Breast Ironing affects 3.8 million women worldwide.

### Warning signs that a girl could be at risk of breast ironing or breast flattening:

- A girl is embarrassed about her body
- A girl is born to a woman who has undergone breast flattening
- A girl has an older sibling or cousin who has undergone breast flattening
- If there are references to breast flattening in conversation, for example a girl may tell other children about it
- A girl may request help from a teacher or another adult if she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk
- A girl from an affected community is withdrawn from Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and/or Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education as her parents wish to keep her uninformed about her rights
- One or both parents or elder family members consider breast flattening integral to their cultural identity
- The family indicate that there are strong levels of influence held by elders who are involved in bringing up female children and support breast flattening
- A girl/family has limited level of integration within UK community

### Warning signs that a girl is undergoing breast ironing or flattening:

- A girl may disclose to a teacher, social worker, GP or another medical professional.
- Some girls may ask for help, perhaps talk about pain or discomfort in their chest area, but may not be explicit about the problem due to embarrassment or fear
- A girl may display reluctance to undergo medical examination
- A girl may be fearful of changing for physical activities due to scars showing or bandages being visible

### Health consequences of breast ironing / breast flattening:

Due to the type of instruments that may be used, the type of force and the lack of aftercare, significant health and developmental issue may occur, such as:

- Abscesses
- Cysts
- Itching
- Tissue damage
- Infection
- Discharge of milk
- Dissymmetry of the breasts
- Severe fever
- Even the complete disappearance of one or both breasts.

There is likely to be an impact on the child's social and psychological well-being.

Although there is no specific law within the UK around breast flattening or breast ironing, it is a form of physical abuse and if professionals are concerned a child may be at risk of, or suffering significant harm, they must refer to their local safeguarding procedure.

For more information on breast ironing / breast flattening, visit National FGM Centre website by clicking [here](#).

## Actions police take when investigating Harmful Practices<sup>13</sup> involving children

The welfare of the child is paramount. A risk assessment will be carried out to ascertain what safeguarding measures, if any, need to be implemented and appropriate interventions considered. These could include taking a young person into police protection, voluntary accommodation elsewhere or children services applying for an Emergency Protection Order.

The allegation will be recorded and a joint strategy agreed between police and children services for the investigation of the offence and the safeguarding of the child. A health professional may also attend the meeting, as required, and will contribute to the investigation. A strategy meeting may be held either as soon as is practicable, or in any case within 48 hours, to discuss the implications for the child and the coordination of the criminal investigation.

There is a risk that the fear of prosecution will prevent those concerned from seeking help resulting in possible health complications, thus police action will be in partnership with other agencies and communities. This should also be used as an opportunity to assess the need for support services such as counseling and medical help as appropriate.

An Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interview may take place with the agreement of the child. This is a digitally recorded interview of the child that enables them to give their best evidence in criminal proceedings.

Corroborative evidence will be sought through a medical examination conducted by a qualified paediatrician/doctor. Consideration is to be given as to a specialist FGM nurse being present during any such examination.

Where a child refuses to be interviewed or undergo medical examination, assistance is to be sought from an intermediary or community organisation.

Consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service takes place as early as possible. Experience shows from previous FGM/HBA cases that delays in commencing the investigation and review stage can be damaging to the victim/survivor and increases the risk of them being pressurised by family and their community. As such, early consultation between police and CPS (alongside our other statutory child protection partners) is key in bringing cases to the criminal courts swiftly.

<sup>13</sup> FGM, Forced Marriage, Honour Based Abuse, Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief, Breast Ironing

# Schools Charter on Ending Harmful Practices

## What is the Schools Charter on Ending Harmful Practices?

The Schools Charter seeks to encourage the delivery of high quality, safeguarding focused inputs on harmful practices across all Schools and Colleges. This is to promote a preventative approach to tackling these sensitive issues and inspire collaboration between stakeholders in education, police and third sector organisations.

The London Harmful Practices Working Group has developed the Schools Charter. This is a strategic multi-agency forum facilitated by the Metropolitan Police Service and brings together a myriad of third sector organisations, legal experts and key stakeholders from the criminal justice sector, health and education.

It is important to encourage and normalise conversations about harmful practices so that we collectively can identify and address vulnerability and ultimately prevent victimisation.

## What do we mean by harmful practices?

Harmful practices cover a range of practices, not all of which are covered by current legislation. They can be traditional, re-emerging or emerging practices. From a policing perspective, harmful practices include Forced Marriage, Honour Based Abuse, Female Genital Mutilation, Breast Ironing and Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief.

According to the United Nations harmful practices are 'persistent practices and behaviours that are grounded on discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, age and other grounds as well as multiple and/or intersecting forms of discrimination that often involve violence and cause physical and/or psychological harm or suffering'.

## How to use the Schools Charter?

The Schools Charter is a tangible and direct commitment from schools to promote the delivery of inputs in schools that address harmful practices.

The Charter principles can be incorporated into harmful practices lesson plans that are delivered by external providers or conversely, developed and delivered by school staff.

### These principles are:

- Harmful Practices as a Human Rights violation and a violation of the Rights of the Child
- Health implications of Harmful Practices in its different forms
- Highlight the legal position in the UK relating to Harmful Practices
- Have a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) focus
- Address issues regarding consent and capacity to choose (and the vulnerability of those who cannot consent)
- Are evidence based (for instance highlighting the prevalence of abuse)

The Schools Charter promotes the appropriate sharing of information via existing referral pathways to ensure.

### Statutory and third sector organisations have clear protocols that address:

- What to do when safeguarding disclosures are made
- How they share information via existing local referral pathways
- How they share community information/intelligence with police

Organisations delivering inputs on harmful practices in schools are encouraged to sign up to the principles it promotes.

The Schools Charter is a framework that schools and external delivery providers can use as a reference point when developing or promoting inputs.

To support schools and teaching staff an online resource will be made available at [www.theschoolscharter.co.uk](http://www.theschoolscharter.co.uk). This seeks to:

- Outline the aims and objectives of the Schools Charter
- Download the Charter
- Access links to resources and specialist services

## Why now?

From September 2020 Relationships Education for all primary pupils, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for all secondary pupils; and Health Education for all pupils will be compulsory.

HM Government has also been clear that, as part RSE for secondary pupils, schools include content on female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

The charter encourages schools to prioritise professional development and teacher training on harmful practices to empower teachers. It recognises the need for this to be in collaboration with the third sector and key stakeholders and that a response from the education sector in isolation would not be as effective.

Engagement will be voluntary, inclusive and build on existing protocols and prior learning of the rights for children.

It will further encourage adult participation especially parents, teachers, carers, communities and policy makers who have the responsibility to ensure that these rights are adhered.

# The Schools Charter

united to safeguard children against harmful practices



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Name of School.

## Hereby agree to adhere to the Harmful Practices Schools Charter

We are committed to reducing all forms of harmful practices to ensure our students are actively aware of their human rights under the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We welcome the support of recognised local and national partners to address these issues throughout our schools PSHE, citizenship and curricular programmes.

We take a zero tolerance approach to all forms of Harmful Practices, including but not limited to: Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage, Child Linked Faith Based Abuse (Witchcraft/Spirit Possession and Breast Ironing).

We pledge to actively engage with recognised Third Sector Organisations to deliver Harmful Practices training that:

- **Includes Harmful Practices as a Human Rights violation and a violation of the rights of the child**
- **Includes Health implications of Harmful Practices in its different forms**
- **Highlights the legal position in the UK relating to Harmful Practices**
- **Is focused on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**
- **Addresses issues regarding consent, capacity to consent (and the vulnerability of those who cannot consent)**
- **Is evidence based (for instance highlighting the prevalence of abuse)**

We welcome feedback and evaluation of all inputs with the view of improving our services and sharing good practice

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Signed by Head Teacher

# Harmful Practices Schools Charter

## Helpful Resources

In an emergency call the Police on **999** or **101** for non-urgent matters and always refer to your school's safeguarding policies and protocols.

HM Government: The Right to Choose: Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/322310/HMG\\_Statutory\\_Guidance\\_publication\\_180614\\_Final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322310/HMG_Statutory_Guidance_publication_180614_Final.pdf)

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/322307/HMG\\_MULTI\\_AGENCY\\_PRACTICE\\_GUIDELINES\\_v1\\_180614\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322307/HMG_MULTI_AGENCY_PRACTICE_GUIDELINES_v1_180614_FINAL.pdf)

HM Government Forced Marriage E-Learning Package

[www.virtual-college.co.uk/resources/free-courses/awareness-of-forced-marriage](http://www.virtual-college.co.uk/resources/free-courses/awareness-of-forced-marriage)

Home Office FGM E-Learning Package  
[www.fgmelearning.co.uk/](http://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/)

Home Office FM E-Learning Package  
<https://www.virtual-college.co.uk/resources/free-courses/awareness-of-forced-marriage>

Multiagency statutory guidance on FGM – HM Government 2016

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/746560/6-1914-HO-Multi\\_Agency\\_Statutory\\_Guidance\\_on\\_FGM\\_-\\_MASTER\\_V7\\_-\\_FINAL\\_-\\_Amended081018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/746560/6-1914-HO-Multi_Agency_Statutory_Guidance_on_FGM_-_MASTER_V7_-_FINAL_-_Amended081018.pdf)

Mandatory Reporting of FGM – procedural information – HM Government 2015

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/573782/FGM\\_Mandatory\\_Reporting\\_-\\_procedural\\_information\\_nov16\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573782/FGM_Mandatory_Reporting_-_procedural_information_nov16_FINAL.pdf)

NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/>

Let's talk FGM

<https://www.letstalkfgm.nhs.uk/>

## Harmful Practices Schools Charter

### Helpful National Services and Organisations

#### Police Domestic Abuse Investigation and Safeguarding Unit (DAISU)

Call **101** (or **999** in an emergency) and speak to DAISU who have specially trained officers who deal with Honour Based Abuse.

#### Forced Marriage Unit

0207 008 0151

A government unit who can assist with individual cases offering support and advice to anyone affected by Forced Marriage. Can also arrange the safe repatriation of British Nationals who have been taken abroad.

[gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage](http://gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage)

#### National Domestic Abuse Helpline

0808 2000 247

24-hour helpline run in partnership between Women's Aid & Refuge [nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk](http://nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk) for access to local FGM, FM and HBA specialist services.

#### 28 Too Many (FGM)

Provides access to research on prevalence, information and resources relating to FGM.

<https://www.28toomany.org/>

#### National FGM Centre

Providing access to training, resources and toolkits relating to FGM.

<http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/>

#### NSPCC

0800 028 3550

FGM and Child Abuse Linked to Faith of Belief Helpline for professionals and teaching resources, safeguarding advice, training and consultancy for schools and colleges.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/>

#### Sharan Project

0844 504 3231

A national BAME specialist service for women at risk of being disowned due to Forced Marriage or Honour Based Abuse <http://sharan.org.uk/> Lead partner for Our Girl – a national forced marriage prevention and awareness campaign.

[www.ourgirl.co.uk](http://www.ourgirl.co.uk)

#### Karma Nirvana

0800 5999247

A helpline for anyone affected by Honour Based Abuse or Forced Marriage.

[karmanirvana.org.uk](http://karmanirvana.org.uk)

#### Children and Families Across Borders

0207 735 8941

Free advice on international child protection and international family cases. Provision of training and international casework services.

<http://cfab.org.uk/>

# Considerations for Schools and Colleges

- 1 What is our biggest safeguarding concern in school and how are we tackling it?
- 2 What are the local risks which may pose a threat to our children and young people, and what are we doing about these?
- 3 How do we promote a culture in school where safeguarding is everybody's responsibility?
- 4 How do we know that all staff are confident to take the right action if they have concerns that a child may be in immediate danger or at risk of harm?
- 5 If a child's behaviour is out of character or gives rise for concern, will staff speak to them to ascertain any safeguarding concerns or underlying issues?
- 6 Are staff alert to signs of abuse addressed in this guidance and recognise what constitutes harmful practice?
- 7 Are we confident that all staff know how to deal with disclosures appropriately and effectively – and know who to escalate to?
- 8 Are staff aware that if concerns about the safety and welfare of a child are not being dealt with by their manager or designated safeguarding lead that it is their responsibility to act?
- 9 Are we confident of when to involve parents and conversely when not to involve parents following a disclosure?
- 10 Are we at risk of normalising abusive behaviour if staff do not recognise, respond and then refer it appropriately?
- 11 Are all staff aware of their powers to 'Search, Screen and Confiscate'?
- 12 Are all regulated professionals within our school aware of the mandatory duty they personally hold to report known or disclosed cases of FGM to police?
- 13 Are we confident our school has a clearly defined policy on mobile phones which clearly outlines any sanctions for breaking the rules and that all staff, pupils and parents know this policy?
- 14 If the matter is peer on peer and involves young people from the same school, are we confident in how we manage these situations?
- 15 If a serious crime has been committed, who takes the decision to notify police and at what stage?
- 16 If there is a potential crime scene, are staff aware that they should secure it to ensure evidence is not lost or damaged?
- 17 If social media is involved, are we confident in how we deal with the challenges this presents?
- 18 Can we assist in any investigation by establishing the facts? (i.e. who, what, where, when, why, how)
- 19 Can we assist further investigation by reviewing/preparing CCTV and establishing witnesses?
- 20 Do we have strong relationships with our professional partners based on trust and effective communication?

## Schools Guidance

### Further Information and Resources

Working Together to Safeguard Children  
– A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children – July 2018 (updated 2019)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/779401/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard-Children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779401/Working_Together_to_Safeguard-Children.pdf)

Department for Education: Keeping children safe in education – Statutory guidance for schools and colleges – September 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

HM Government Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/522166/VAWG\\_Strategy\\_FINAL\\_PUBLICATION\\_MASTER\\_vRB.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522166/VAWG_Strategy_FINAL_PUBLICATION_MASTER_vRB.PDF)

HM Government Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020 – Strategy Refresh 2019

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/783596/VAWG\\_Strategy\\_Refresh\\_Web\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/783596/VAWG_Strategy_Refresh_Web_Accessible.pdf)

HM Government Position statement on male victims of crimes considered in the cross-Government strategy on ending Violence Against Women and Girls – March 2019

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/783996/Male\\_Victims\\_Position\\_Paper\\_Web\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/783996/Male_Victims_Position_Paper_Web_Accessible.pdf)

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, (HM Government, February 2019)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/781150/Draft\\_guidance\\_Relationships\\_Education\\_Relationships\\_and\\_Sex\\_Education\\_RSE\\_and\\_Health\\_Education2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781150/Draft_guidance_Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education2.pdf)

HM Government: What to do if you're worried a child is being abused – advice for practitioners – March 2015

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419604/What\\_to\\_do\\_if\\_you\\_re\\_worried\\_a\\_child\\_is\\_being\\_abused.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf)

“Sex without consent, I suppose that is rape”: How young people in England understand sexual consent – November 2013

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/sex-without-consent-i-suppose-that-is-rape/>

Sexting in schools and colleges:  
Responding to incidents and safeguarding  
young people – UK Council for Child  
Internet Safety – 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexting-in-schools-and-colleges>

A qualitative study of children, young  
people and 'sexting' – A report prepared  
by the NSPCC – Jessica Ringrose, Rosalind  
Gill, Sonia Livingstone, Laura Harvey

[www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/qualitative-study-children-young-people-sexting-report.pdf](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/qualitative-study-children-young-people-sexting-report.pdf)

Searching, screening and confiscation –  
Advice for head teachers, schools staff  
and governing bodies – Department of  
Education, February 2014

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation)

The London Child Sexual Exploitation  
Operating Protocol 3rd Edition June 2017:

<http://www.chscb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/LONDON-CSE-PROTOCOL.pdf>

Department for Children, Schools and  
Families: 'Safeguarding Children and  
Young People from Sexual Exploitation  
– Supplementary Guidance to Working  
Together to Safeguard Children'

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/278849/Safeguarding\\_Children\\_and\\_Young\\_People\\_from\\_Sexual\\_Exploitation.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278849/Safeguarding_Children_and_Young_People_from_Sexual_Exploitation.pdf)

Unprotected, overprotected: meeting  
the needs of young people with learning  
difficulties who experience, or are at risk  
of, sexual exploitation.

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/resources-and-publications/unprotected-overprotected-meeting-the-needs-of-young-people>

NSPCC – Child Sexual Exploitation

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/>

Contextual Safeguarding Network –  
University of Bedfordshire

<https://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>

Sexting Incidents in Schools – National  
Education Union

<https://neu.org.uk/advice/sexting-incident-school>

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2019/harmful-sexual-behaviour-framework/>

Internet Watch Foundation

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/>

Child Abuse Image Database

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/759328/CAID\\_Brochure\\_May\\_2018\\_for\\_gov\\_uk.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759328/CAID_Brochure_May_2018_for_gov_uk.pdf)

HM Government: The Right to Choose:  
Multi-agency statutory guidance for  
dealing with forced marriage

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/322310/HMG\\_Statutory\\_Guidance\\_publication\\_180614\\_Final.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322310/HMG_Statutory_Guidance_publication_180614_Final.pdf)

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/322307/HMG\\_MULTI\\_AGENCY\\_PRACTICE\\_GUIDELINES\\_v1\\_180614\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322307/HMG_MULTI_AGENCY_PRACTICE_GUIDELINES_v1_180614_FINAL.pdf)

Our Girl – national prevention and  
awareness campaign on Forced Marriage

<http://ourgirl.co.uk/>

Safe Lives – Your Choice: honour based  
violence, forced marriage and domestic  
abuse

<http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Spotlight%20on%20HBV%20and%20forced%20marriage-web.pdf>

Home Office FGM E-Learning Package

[www.fgmelearning.co.uk/](http://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/)

Multiagency statutory guidance on FGM –  
HM Government 2016

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/746560/6-1914-HO-Multi\\_Agency\\_Statutory\\_Guidance\\_on\\_FGM\\_-\\_MASTER\\_V7\\_-\\_FINAL\\_-\\_Amended081018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/746560/6-1914-HO-Multi_Agency_Statutory_Guidance_on_FGM_-_MASTER_V7_-_FINAL_-_Amended081018.pdf)

Mandatory Reporting of FGM – procedural  
information – HM Government 2015

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/573782/FGM\\_Mandatory\\_Reporting\\_-\\_procedural\\_information\\_nov16\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573782/FGM_Mandatory_Reporting_-_procedural_information_nov16_FINAL.pdf)

28 Too Many (FGM)

<https://www.28toomany.org/>

NHS e-network for Health Professionals  
working on FGM & Health Related Issues

<https://www.fgmnetwork.org.uk/>

Children and Families Abroad - Resources  
for professionals

<http://cfab.org.uk/resources>



