

FGM and Christianity

There is no mention of FGM in the Bible and according to;

1Cor 6:15-19 :

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own"

John 10:10

"The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy, but I, (Jesus) came that you might have life and that you may have it more abundantly."

Because Female Genital Mutilation is harmful to health, threatening to life, and injurious to sexual function, it is incompatible with the will of God.

Victims Voices

"I was circumcised when I was four, I can still feel the pain...how can something good remain painful forever?"

-Evaline

"Going through reopening was worse than being sewn but I have come to terms with my body. Still unable to wipe out the nightmare of the pain of FGM."

-Amina

FGM and the Law

In the UK the FGM Act 2003 makes it illegal to help, support or arrange for FGM to be performed on a girl in the UK or abroad. The offence can be punished by upto 14 years in prison, a fine or both.

For confidential advice and support or for further information about our FGM services please contact:

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About Sacred Bodies:

Sacred Bodies Project aims to reduce the risk of girls and young women undergoing Female Genital Mutilation. The project works within FGM practicing communities in South London; creating awareness and highlighting the physical, psychological, emotional effects of FGM on victims; the rights of children and the legal consequences of performing, aiding, abetting, counsel or procuring of FGM in the UK or abroad.

Through advocacy, community outreach and mobilisation, one-one information, advice and guidance, we work closely with parents, community and faith leaders, schools and local safeguarding teams to raise awareness on the physical and mental effects of FGM on victims.

We recruit and train FGM champions from within and outside practising communities to support the campaign and to help break down the social cultural, language, faith barriers and beliefs associated with FGM.

What is FGM?

Female Genital Mutilation comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external genital or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It has no health benefits and harms girls and women in many ways. (World Health Organisation, 2013).

Types of FGM

Type 1

Removal of the clitoral hood with or without the removal of the clitoris

Type 2

Removal of the clitoris and partial or total removal of the vaginal lips.

Type 3

Removal of the clitoris, vaginal lips and the stitching of the vagina, leaving a 1–2cm opening

Type 4

Piercing the clitoris, cauterization, cutting the vagina, inserting corrosive substances.

Health Effects of FGM

Women who have been subjected to genital mutilation often suffer long-term gynaecological health problems, including fistulas, chronic infections, problems with menstruation and at times leads to childlessness.

In marriage, intercourse is usually a painful, traumatic experience, often necessitating reopening of the scarified vaginal opening. Childbirth is usually difficult due to rigid scarring of the tissues and at times resulting in maternal and fetal deaths.

In the cultures where female genital mutilation is prevalent, FGM is believed to be a form of preserving virginity & chastity and controlling

womens' sexual desires. It is also believed to make a woman eligible for marriage. Others believe that the removal of all or part of female genitalia improves cleanliness and makes childbirth safer. In some cultures, FGM is justified as a form of religious doctrine.

Religion and FGM:

There is no religious evidence to support the practice of FGM

FGM and Islam:

Sharia: The Islamic law protects a woman's right to sexual enjoyment, as demonstrated by the fact that a woman has the right to divorce on the grounds that her husband does not provide sexual satisfaction. Also the Quran states...

"You will not see any flaw in what the Lord of Mercy creates." (Qur'an 67:3)

Right to life and right to have a lineage are some of the primary aims of the sharia; FGM takes these right away all from all women and girls. How then can we still say that an act which goes against these sacred doctrines of a religion is part of that religion?

It is clear Islamic law prohibits clitorodectomy (partial or complete) or infibulations, or any genital mutilation which impairs the woman's ability to enjoy sexual relations.