

## International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation February 6th

unicef  for every child

The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) marks an important day for the world community. It provides an opportunity to forge stronger ties and take concerted action to end FGM.

In 2024 nearly 4.4 million girls - or more than 12,000 each day - were at risk of FGM around the world (unicef)



According to the World Health Organisation FGM means “*all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.*”

It often involves the removal or cutting of the labia and clitoris. There are other harmful practices, related to belief, faith and cultural norms, which often co-occur with FGM. FGM is usually done in childhood but can affect survivors throughout their lives.



FGM is child abuse. It is a safeguarding concern and it is illegal. If you suspect it, gather information and report it to the Stronger Families Hub. You do not need consent.



### Indicators of Risk

- Girls whose cousins or older siblings have undergone FGM
- Girls saying they are going to have a ‘special procedure’ or be ‘purified’
- Families where there is influence from pro-FGM elders

The parents are being **evasive** about why/where/who the girl is going on holiday with.



The girl has been asked to keep the holiday a **secret** by her parents.



The girl mentions she is attending a **special ceremony** or “going to become a woman”.



Be vigilant and curious. Ask questions. Be direct.

Read up on the key information you need and find resources to support you in identifying and assessing risk of FGM available from the National FGM Centre.



The Safeguarding Partnership delivers free training on FGM for all professionals working with children and adults.

Book your place through Learning Zone

