

What is Female Genital Mutilation?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines female genital mutilation (FGM) as any procedure involving the partial or total removal of a woman's genital organs or other injury to a woman's genital organs for non-medical reasons.

FGM has serious long and short term health consequences for girls and women.

Short term consequences can include severe bleeding, failure of the wound to heal, difficulty passing urine, injury to adjacent tissue, fracture and dislocation of limbs and infections such as tetanus and HIV.

Long term consequences can include painful sex, recurrent urinary tract infections, painful periods, potential trauma during childbirth, infertility, incontinence and difficulty urinating, chronic pelvic inflammatory disease, sexual dysfunction and psychological trauma.

FGM is also known as: Absum (Harrari); Bondo (various languages); Gudniin (Somali); Ibi ugwu (Igbo); Khitan/ Tahoor (Arabic); Kutairi (Swahili); Megerez (Amharic) and Mkhenshab (Tigreya).

Is FGM illegal in Ireland?

FGM is illegal in Ireland under the Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 2012. It is a criminal offence for anyone resident in Ireland to perform FGM. It is also a criminal offence for anyone to take a girl to another country to undergo FGM. Such a person can be prosecuted upon return to Ireland.

The maximum penalty under all sections of the Act is a fine of up to €10,000 or imprisonment for up to 14 years or both.

IFPA Women's Health Service

The IFPA Everywoman Centre provides high quality sexual and reproductive health care for women in Ireland. Services include free specialised medical and psychological care for women and girls affected by female genital mutilation (FGM), as well as wider sexual and reproductive health services such as cervical screening, sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening, contraception advice, breast examination and menopause check-ups. Translation services are provided free of charge where requested.

5-7 Cathal Brugha Street
Dublin 1
T: 01 872 7088
FGM Treatment Service: 085 877 1342
(phone or text, confidential line)
E: cbst@ifpa.ie | www.ifpa.ie

Other services for migrant women

AkiDwA - Migrant Women's Network

AkiDwA offers support and information for all migrant women in Ireland.

Unit 2, Killarney Court
Buckingham Street
Dublin 1
T: 01 834 9851
E: info@akidwa.ie | www.akidwa.ie



SEXUALITY, INFORMATION
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS

IFPA Women's Health Service



High quality sexual
and reproductive health care

FGM Treatment Service

The Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) Everywoman Centre provides free specialised medical and psychological care to women and girls affected by female genital mutilation (FGM). This specialist care addresses the short term health effects of FGM and can also greatly reduce long term health implications for women. Translation services are provided where requested.

What is involved?

- Information for anyone with concerns about FGM
- Identification of the type of FGM
- Assessment to determine whether de-infibulation (reversal operation) is required
- Pain management
- Infection management
- Antenatal advice
- Fertility advice
- Appropriate referral where surgical intervention is required
- Confidential and non-directive counselling delivered by trained and accredited IFPA counsellors

How can I access the service?

There are three ways in which the FGM Treatment Service line can be accessed:

- A four hour drop-in clinic is held every Wednesday. Clinic times alternate from morning to evening on a weekly basis, please contact the IFPA Everywoman Centre for opening times on the date you wish to visit.
- Appointments can be arranged by calling or texting the confidential FGM Treatment Service line on 085 877 1342.
- Referrals can be made by GPs, hospitals and other health providers.

COST: The FGM Treatment Service is free.

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Other sexual & reproductive health services

When you attend the FGM Treatment Service, you will be provided with a full sexual and reproductive health check-up, including the following:

CERVICAL SCREENING

Regular cervical screening is the best way to prevent cervical cancer and is recommended for all women aged 25 to 60.

BREAST EXAMINATION

This simple breast examination is aimed at the early detection and treatment of breast cancer.

CONTRACEPTION ADVICE

There are several contraception options available in Ireland for women and men. Our doctors can take you through all the options and help you find the best method.

STI SCREENING

Any sexually active person may be exposed to a sexually transmitted infection (STI) and is advised to get tested regularly. We will provide you with information, screening and treatment.

MENOPAUSE CHECK-UP

This check-up will assess any health risks during the menopause and will help you to develop a personal health plan for the menopause and beyond.