

8 April 2018

Dear Member,

RE: Female genital mutilation (FGM)

As-salamalaykum.

There has been significant publicity regarding the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM), or 'khatna' as it is traditionally known in some communities.

Following the discussions at our AGM, this correspondence serves to remind our members that FGM is illegal in the UK.

It is an offence to:

- *perform FGM (including taking a child abroad for FGM)*
- *help a girl perform FGM on herself in or outside the UK*
- *help anyone perform FGM in the UK*
- *help anyone perform FGM outside the UK on a UK national or resident*
- *fail to protect a girl for whom you are responsible from FGM*

Help is available if you've had FGM or you're worried that you or someone you know is at risk.

- *If someone is in immediate danger, contact the police immediately by dialling 999.*
- *If you're concerned that someone may be at risk, contact the NSPCC helpline on 0800 028 3550 or fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk.*
- *If you're under pressure to have FGM performed on your daughter, ask your GP, health visitor or other healthcare professional for help, or contact the NSPCC helpline.*
- *If you've had FGM, you can get help from a specialist NHS gynaecologist or FGM service – ask your GP, midwife or any other healthcare professional about services in your area.*

Source: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/>, 08 April 2018

We hope this information has been useful to you.

Was salam,

Aqeel Kapasi
Secretary
On behalf of DBWS in GB Management Committee