

For further information contact **NCPE** on **2590 3850** or send an email on **EQUALITY@GOV.MT** to refer you to the support services available.

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WHAT IS FGM?

Female genital mutilation comprises all procedures involving the performance of an operation or intervention for the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other permanent injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Whilst FGM is often carried out under the assumption that it is beneficial for the girl, the procedure has no benefits, and is considered to be a form of gender based violence.

The WHO defines the different types of FGM as follows:

TYPE 1 - Clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris (a small, sensitive and erectile part of the female genitals) and, in very rare cases, only the prepuce (the fold of skin surrounding the clitoris).

TYPE 2 - Excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora.

TYPE 3 - Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal. The seal is formed by cutting and repositioning the inner, or outer, labia, with or without removal of the clitoris.

TYPE 4 - Other: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g. pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterizing the genital area.

HOW IS FGM PRACTICED?

Often, it is practiced by an elder woman within a community who is tasked with carrying out this practice on a number of girls. The procedure itself is traumatic, painful and often unhygienic, as the child is often held down, no anaesthetic is used, and the tools utilized to carry out the procedure are not sterile. In some countries, FGM is carried out in clinics, and whilst in these cases the risk from poor hygiene is lower, all other risks associated with FGM remain.

WHY IS FGM PRACTICED?

FGM is practiced for a number of cultural, religious and social reasons. including social pressure, preparation for marriage and adulthood, maintenance of proper sexual behaviour and preserving a girl's modesty.

WHERE IS FGM PRACTICED?

FGM is practiced in a number of countries across Africa and the Middle East, as well as in Malaysia. The largest populations of girls and women at risk in Malta come from Egypt, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Sudan.

FGM AND MALTESE LAW

The Maltese Criminal Code defines female genital mutilation as the act of performing an operation or carrying out an intervention on a woman's genitalia, or that inflicts on them permanent changes.

All types of FGM are illegal under Maltese law. A person found guilty of carrying out or assisting in the carrying out of FGM is subject to imprisonment, ranging between three to nine years. A person found guilty of FGM which causes the death of the victim is subject to imprisonment ranging between four to twenty years. Any person who fails to avert FGM is liable to a fine of between €1,000 and €5,000.

WHO IS AT RISK OF FGM?

FGM is generally carried out on girls between infancy and the age of 15, and more rarely on women over the age of 15; whilst those who are older and have had the procedure may be at risk of both short and long-term effects of the procedure.

SHORT TERM COMPLICATIONS FROM FGM

Severe pain

Shock

Potentially fatal haemorrhage

Broken limbs (from being held down)

Tetanus and gangrene

Blood-borne viruses including HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C

Inability to urinate

Damage to the urethra and bowel

Wound infections

LONG TERM COMPLICATIONS

Recurrent urinary tract and bladder infections

Abnormal periods

Infertility and other forms of damage to the reproductive system

Cysts and the formation of scar tissue

Pain during sex

Kidney infections, kidney impairment and possible kidney failure

Vaginal infections

Risk of complications in pregnancy and childbirth and increased risk of newborn death

Psychological trauma, including feelings of anger and betrayal

Sexual dysfunction

Depression and anxiety

Flashbacks during pregnancy and birth

Need for surgery to open the lower vagina for sexual intercourse and childbirth

Medical professionals have a role in preventing FGM, ensuring child safety, and in addressing complications arising from FGM.

It is against the law to fail to seek to avert FGM, regardless of the duty of confidentiality. Health professionals are particularly responsible for early detection and referral. Many women who have had FGM avoid going to a doctor due to a fear of their procedure being revealed. This further increases the health risks to women.

ASSESSING AND NOTICING RISK

Some girls are at higher risk of FGM than others. Recognizing and assessing risk for a particular girl can be based on the following criteria.

The family / child comes from a country where FGM is widely practiced

The family is not well integrated in Malta

The family is planning a trip to relatives' home in the country of origin, and talks about rituals and ceremonies there (particularly during summer)

The family is in favour of FGM

Some female family members have undergone FGM

The family is highly concerned with the honour of their female family members

The girl has been absent from school

The girl complains of pain in the genital area

Issues with menstruation / urination

TALKING ABOUT FGM: WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STOP FGM IN MALTA

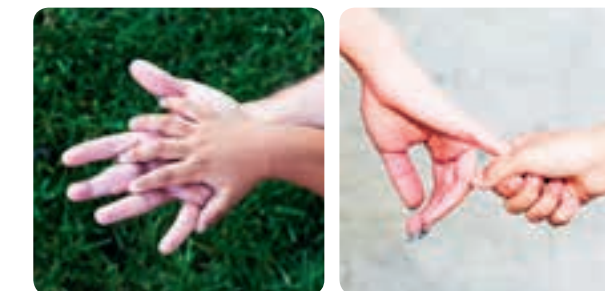
- 1 Report any cases of FGM which you witness or hear about
- 2 Refer girls and women who have experienced FGM or who are at the risk of experiencing FGM to the authorities
- 3 Become an **#EQUALITYAMBASSADOR** for **#NCPE**
 - a Speak to your patients about the adverse psychological and health effects of FGM. It may be difficult to talk to women about FGM, because of its deeply rooted cultural meaning so you must ensure a safe environment within which the issue can be discussed.
 - b Encourage your colleagues and other healthcare professionals you meet to contact NCPE to seek further information with how to deal with women and girls who have experienced or are at the risk of experiencing FGM
 - c **BECOME A CAMPAIGNER!** Help NCPE spread more awareness to address the situation by joining our social media campaign on Facebook. Upload a selfie with the words / *Support NCPE to End FGM* in Malta and use the hashtags **#NCPE #EQUALITYAMBASSADOR**

For more information about the adequate support services available contact:

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PROMOTION OF EQUALITY
T: 2590 3850 E: EQUALITY@GOV.MT
WWW.EQUALITY.GOV.MT
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FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION: INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

X'INH I FGM?	Mutilazzjoni Ġenitali Femminili (FGM)* tikkonsisti mill-proċeduri kollha li jinvolvu t-twetqiq ta' operazzjoni jew intervenzjoni għat-tneħħija parzjali jew totali tal-organi ġenitali femminili esterni jew ħsara permanenti oħra lill-organi ġenitali femminili għal raġunijiet mhux mediċi.
Filwaqt li FGM ta' spiss titwettaq bis-suppożizzjoni li hi ta' benefiċċju għat-tifla, il-proċedura m'għandha ebda benefiċċji, u hi kkunsidrata bħala forma ta' vjolenza bbażata fuq is-sess.	
IL-WHO tiddefinixxi t-tipi differenti ta' FGM kif ġejjin hawn taħt:	
L-1 TIP - Clitoridectomy: it-tneħħija parzjali jew totali tal-klitoris (il-parti ż-żgħira, sensitiva u erettili tal-organi ġenitali) u, f'każijiet rari ħafna, il- <i>prepuce</i> biss (it-tinja tal-ġilda ta' madwar il-klitoris).	
IT-2 TIP - Qtuġh: it-tneħħija parzjali jew totali tal-klitoris u l- <i>labia minora</i> , bil-qtuġh jew mingħajr il-qtuġh tal- <i>labia majora</i> .	
IT-3 TIP - Infibulazzjoni: tidjiq tal-ftuħ vaġinali billi jinħoloq sigill li jgħatti. Is-sigill jinħoloq billi tinqata' u tiġi ppożizzjonata mill-ġdid il- <i>labia</i> ġewwiena jew ta' barra, bit-tneħħija jew mingħajr it-tneħħija tal-klitoris.	
IR-4 TIP - Oħrajn: il-proċeduri kollha l-oħra li jagħmlu ħsara lill-organi ġenitali femminili għal għanijiet mhux mediċi, pereżempju, qris, titqib, qtuġh, brix u kkwarterizzazzjoni tal-parti ġenitali.	

KIF ISSIR FGM?	Ta' spiss, issir minn mara anzjana fi hdan il-komunità li tkun imqabbda twettaq din il-prattika fuq numru ta' bniet. Il-proċedura nnifisha hi trawmatika, twegġġa' u ħafna drabi mhijiex iġjenika, peress li t-tifla ġeneralment tinżamm 'l isfel, ma jintużax loppju, u l-ġhodod li jintużaw biex titwettaq il-proċedura mhumiex sterili. F'xi pajjiżi, FGM issir fi kliniki, u filwaqt li f'dawn il-każijiet, ir-riskji minn nuqqas ta' iġjene huma inqas, ir-riskji l-oħra kollha assoċjati ma' MGF jibqgħu hemm.
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GHALA SSIR FGM?	FGM titwettaq għal numru ta' raġunijiet kulturali, reliġjużi u soċjali, inklużi pressjoni soċjali, preparazzjoni għaž-żwieġ u maturità, iż-żamma ta' mgiba sesswali xierqa u preservazzjoni tal-modesta tat-tifla.
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FEJN ISSIR FGM?	FGM issir f'numru ta' pajjiżi fl-Afrika u l-Lvant Nofsani, kif ukoll fil-Malasja. L-ikbar popolazzjonijiet ta' bniet u nisa fir-riskju f'Malta jiġu mill-Eġittu, s-Somalja, l-Eritrea, l-Etjopja, in-Niġerja u s-Sudan.
FGM U L-LIĠI MALTIJA	Il-Kodiċi Kriminali ta' Malta jiddefinixxu l-mutilazzjoni ġenitali femminili bħala l-att tat-twetqiq ta' operazzjoni jew ta' intervenzjoni fuq l-organi ġenitali ta' mara, jew it-twikkija ta' tibdil permanenti.
	It-tipi kollha ta' FGM huma illegali skont il-liġi Maltija. Persuna li tinstab hatja ta' twettiq jew għajnuna għat-twetqiq ta' FGM hi soġġetta għal priġunerija ta' bejn tlieta u disa' snin. Persuna li tinstab hatja ta' FGM li tikkawża l-mewt tal-vittma hi soġġetta għal priġunerija ta' bejn erbgha u għoxrin sena. Kwalunkwe persuna li tonqos milli tevita FGM tista' tehel multa ta' bejn €1,000 u €5,000.
MIN QIEGHED FIR-RISKJU TA' FGM?	FGM ġeneralment issir fuq bniet bejn l- infanzja u 15-il sena, u b'mod aktar rari fuq nisa ta' 'l fuq minn 15-il sena; filwaqt li dawk li jkunu akbar u tkun saritilhom il-proċedura, jistgħu jkunu f'riskju tal-effetti tal-proċedura kemm fuq żmien qasir kif ukoll iktar fit-tul.



*Bl-Ingliż it-terminu huwa magħruf bħala *Female Genital Mutilation*

KUMPLIKAZZJONIJIET TA' FGM FUQ ŻMIEN QASIR
Uġiġh qawwi
Xokk
Emorraġija potenzjalment fatali
Riġlejn miksuri (peress li l-persuna tkun inżammet 'l isfel)
Tetnu u kankrena
<i>Viruses</i> li jittieħdu permezz tad-demem inklużi HIV, epatite B u epatite Ċ
Inabbiltà biex il-persuna tgħaddi l-awrina
Ħsara lill-uretra u l-musrana
Infazzjonijiet tal-feriti

KUMPLIKAZZJONIJIET FIT-TUL
Infazzjonijiet tal-apparat urinarju u tal-bużżejqa
Mestrwazzjoni mhux normali
Infertilità u forom oħra ta' ħsara fis-sistema riproduttiva
Ċesti u l-formazzjoni ta' tessut tal-marka tal-ġriehi
Uġiġh waqt is-sess
Infazzjonijiet fil-kliewi, indeboliment tal-kliewi u insuffiċjenza possibbli tal-kliewi
Infazzjonijiet vaġinali

Riskju ta' kumplikazzjonijiet fit-tqala u t-twelid tat-trabi u riskju akbar ta' mewt għat-trabi tat-twelid
Trawma psikoloġika, inklużi emozzjonijiet ta' rabja u tradiment
Disfunzjoni sesswali
Dipressjoni u ansjetà
Flashbacks matul it-tqala u t-twelid
Ħtieġa għal kirurġija biex tinfetaħ il-vaġina tan-naħa t'isfel għal kopulazzjoni sesswali u t-twelid tat-trabi

Professjonisti mediċi għandhom irwol biex jipprevjenu FGM, jiżguraw is-sigurtà tat-tfal, u jindirizzaw kumplikazzjonijiet li jirriżultaw minn FGM.

Hi kontra l-liġi li jonqsu milli jfittxu li jevitaw FGM, irrISPETTIVAMENT mill-obbligu tal-kunfidenzjalità. Professjonisti tas-saħħa huma b'mod partikolari responsabbli għal skoperta u riferiment bikrin. Ħafna nisa li tkun saritilhom FGM jevitaw li jmorru għand tobba għax jibzġhu li dawn se jindunaw bil-proċedura. B'hekk ir-riskji tas-saħħa tan-nisa jkomplu jiżdedu.



NEVALVAW U NINDUNAW BIR-RISKJU
Xi bniet għandhom riskju ogħla ta' FGM minn oħrajn. Ir-rikonoxximent u l-evalwazzjoni tar-riskju għal tifla partikolari jistgħu jkunu bbażati fuq il-kriterji li ġejjin.

Il-familja / it-tifla ġejja minn pajjiż fejn hu komuni li titwettaq FGM
Il-familja mhijiex integrata sew f'Malta
Il-familja qed tippjana vjaġġ biex iżzur il-familjari tagħha fil-pajjiż ta' oriġini, u titkellem dwar ritwali u ċerimonji li jsiru hemm (partikolarment matul is-sajf)
Il-familja hija favur FGM
Xi membri nisa tal-familja saritilhom FGM
Il-familja hi kkonċernata ħafna bl-unur tal-membri nisa tagħha
It-tifla ma kinitx qed tmur skola
It-tifla tilmenta dwar uġiġh fil-parti ġenitali tagħha
Problemi tal-mestrwazzjoni u biex tgħaddi l-awrina

NITKELLMU DWAR FGM: X'TISTA' TAGHMEL INT BIEX INWAQQFU MGF F'MALTA

- Irrapporta kwalunkwe każijiet ta' FGM li tara jew tisma' bihom
- Irreferi bniet jew nisa li esperjenzaw FGM jew li huma fir-riskju li jesperjenzaw FGM lill-awtoritajiet
- Sir **#EQUALITYAMBASSADOR** għal **#NCPE**
 - Tkellem mal-pazjenti tiegħek dwar l-effetti psikoloġiċi u tas-saħħa ħżiena tal-FGM. Jista' jkun diffiċli li titkellem ma' nisa dwar l-FGM, minħabba li t-tifsira kulturali tal-proċedura jkollha għeruq sodi, allura għandek tiżgura ambjent sikur li jista' jiġi diskuss is-sugġett fi hdanu.
 - Inkoragġixxi lill-kollegi tiegħek u professjonisti oħra fil-qasam tas-saħħa u l-kura li tiltaqa' magħhom biex jikkuntattjaw lill-NCPE sabiex isaqsu għal aktar informazzjoni dwar kif għandhom jtkellmu ma' nisa u bniet li jkunu esperjenzaw jew qegħdin fir-riskju li jesperjenzaw FGM.
 - SIR KAMPANJATUR JEW KAMPANJATRIĊI!** Ghin lill-NCPE tqajjem iktar kuxjenza sabiex tindirizza din is-sitwazzjoni billi tingħaqad mal-kampanja tal-midja tagħna fuq Facebook. Tella' stessu bil-kliem: *I Support NCPE to End FGM* in Malta u uża l-*hashtags* **#NCPE #EQUALITYAMBASSADOR**

Għal aktar tagħrif dwar is-servizzi disponibbli għal appoġġ adegwat ikkuntattja:

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