

# Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Legislation in the UK

Please note: this is a summary of the legal content of FGM in the UK as of March 2018. For more details please visit [gov.uk](http://gov.uk).

## Key



Specific FGM Law



FGM Protection Orders



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### Mandatory Reporting

(Reporting to the police, known cases of FGM identified in under 18's)

## England and Wales

**Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003** - Illegal for UK Nationals or Permanent UK Residents to perform FGM on a girl overseas or aid/abet a UK national to undergo FGM in the UK or abroad.

**Serious Crime Act 2015** - Extended FGM Act 2003 protection to include UK habitual residents, Mandatory Reporting (for teachers, social workers and health professionals); Introduction of FGM Protection Orders and lifelong anonymity for survivor.

**Maximum penalty:** 14 years in prison.

**Failure to protect a girl: (parental responsibility)** 7 years in prison.

**Breach of FGM Protection order:** 5 years in prison.



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## Scotland

**Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2003** - Repealed and re-enacted the provisions of the 1985 Act. Illegal for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to perform FGM on a girl overseas or aid/abet a UK national to undergo FGM in the UK or abroad.

**Maximum penalty:** 14 years in prison.



## Northern Ireland

**Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003** - Illegal for UK Nationals or Permanent UK Residents to perform FGM on a girl overseas or aid/abet a UK national to undergo FGM in the UK or abroad.

**Serious Crime Act 2015** - Extended FGM Act 2003 protection to habitual residence of UK (not just nationals); Introduction of FGM Protection Orders.

**Maximum penalty:** 14 years in prison.

**Failure to protect a girl (parental responsibility):** 7 years in prison.

**Breach of FGM Protection order:** 5 years in prison.



## About the National FGM Centre

The Centre is a partnership between Barnardo's and the Local Government Association. The aim is to achieve a system change in the provision of services for children and families affected by FGM, Breast Flattening and Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief. Part funded by the Department for Education as part of its Children's Social Care Innovation Programme, the Centre works closely with local authorities, health, education, police, and the voluntary sector to achieve its vision and aims.



Developing excellence  
in response to FGM and  
other harmful practices



For more info head to [www.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk](http://www.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk)