

The War on Women



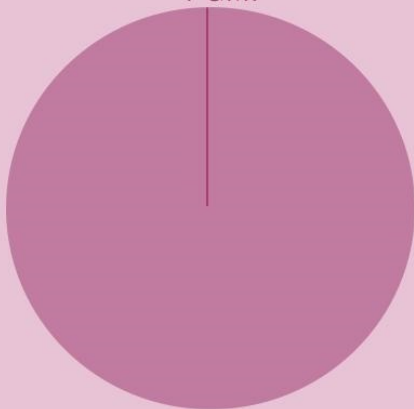
What is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?

Female genital mutilation is the practise of removing external parts of a woman's genitalia, such as the clitoris for purely traditional and cultural purposes. It is important to remember that there are no medical benefits from this horrific procedure, in fact it's quite the opposite, the physical consequences are huge, this can range from infection and serious serious problems when it comes to child birth. It is believed that there are around 170, 000 cases of female genital mutilation that has affected girls in the United Kingdom, what's shocking is that we are amongst the lowest when it comes to cases of FGM, in places such as Sudan, where female genital mutilation is popular, numbers can go as high as 22 million. FGM is preformed massively across Africa, in places like Sudan, Somalia, Northern Kenya, parts of Ethiopia, and along the Red Sea coast (Hosken-feminist.com, mutilation).

According to the World Health Organisation, there are four major types of female genital mutilation, these are "clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris, excision: removing part or all of the clitoris and the inner labia (lips that surround the vagina), with or without removal of the labia majora (larger outer lips). Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening by creating a seal, formed by cutting and re-positioning the labia. Other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, including pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterizing the genital area."

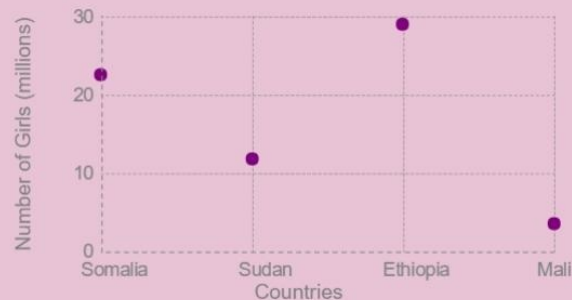
Female genital mutilation causes serious health problems to women who have undergone this barbaric procedure. It is in no way comparable to male circumcision as people who are pro "female circumcision" would like to believe. The severe health problems that come after female genital mutilation are likely to last throughout a woman's entire life time. Tools used to carry out this procedure on one of the most sensitive parts of a woman's body include scalpels, scissors, even items that people would never consider as tools, such as razor blades and shards of glass. This can cause hemorrhaging and severe blood loss around the genital area which could cause the female to go in to shock. As this is medically unwarranted and illegal, hospitals and general doctors surgeries will not carry out these procedures, this then pushes the practise to be performed in unsanitary rooms, the female is at risk of infection from the very beginning and after the procedure will constantly be at risk of infection, conditions like such are how diseases such as HIV are easily spread.

98% of Somalian Girls go through FGM.



The single line you see in this pie chart depicts the small 2% that manage to get away with not having undergone this barbaric procedure.

This graph depicts the number of girls who undergo FGM in a handful of countries.



Number of Girls in African countries that have undergone FGM.

Whilst this is only a few examples of countries only in Africa that practise FGM, the number of girls within these few examples are huge. Sudan and Ethiopi.