

Hidden Harms: Female Genital Mutilation

Facilitators: Tigist Wasihan, & Parese Hibbert

FORWARD - Introduction

- FORWARD is an **African Diaspora women's organisation** registered in 1985. We operate in the UK, Europe and Africa.
- We work on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) focusing on **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Child Marriage, Domestic Abuse and all other VAWG issues**
- Our vision is a world in which African women and girls live in **dignity**, are **healthy** and enjoy **equal rights**.





FGM Definition

The term “*female genital mutilation*” refers to **all** procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs **for non-medical reasons.**

World Health Organization 2008

Types of FGM

Type 1 - WHO

(Clitoridectomy):
Where part or all of
the clitoris or the
hood of it is
removed



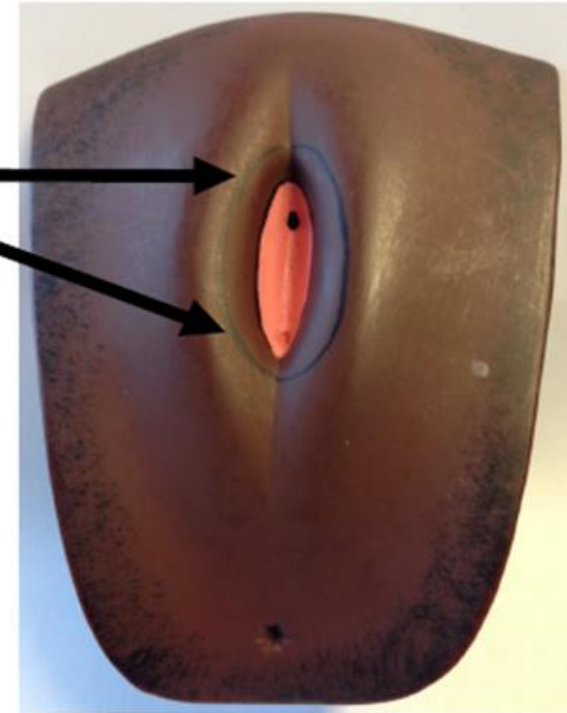
Flesh removed -UNICEF

Types of FGM

Type 2- WHO (Excision):

Where the clitoris and inner lips (labia minora) are removed

Flesh removed -
UNICEF

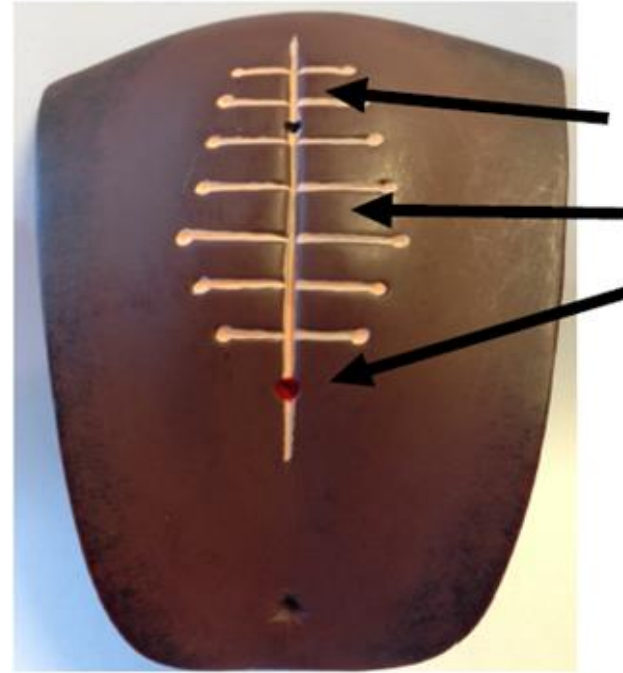


Types of FGM

Type 3 – WHO

(Infibulation):

Where the clitoris, inner and outer lips (labia minora/majora) are cut away and the remaining skin is sewn or sealed together to varying degrees



Sewn closed - UNICEF

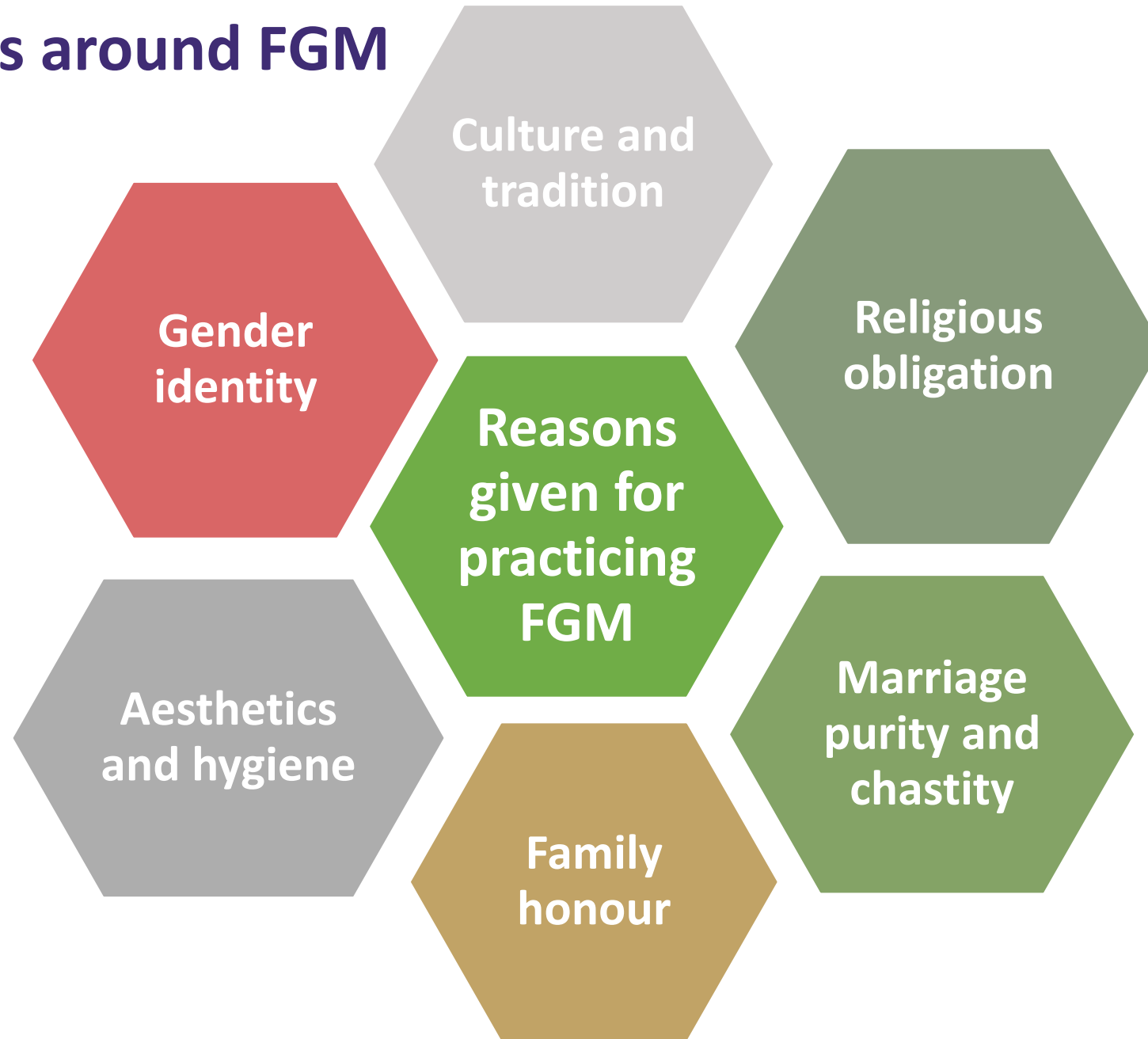


Type 4 (no image)

All other harmful procedures including:

- **Pricking**, (making hole with a sharp point)
- **Piercing**,
- **Incision**, (a small cut)
- **Cauterising**, (burning of the skin or flesh with a heated instrument)
- **Stretching/pulling**,
- **Scraping**,
- **Or use of herbs and other substances for tightening.**

Social norms around FGM

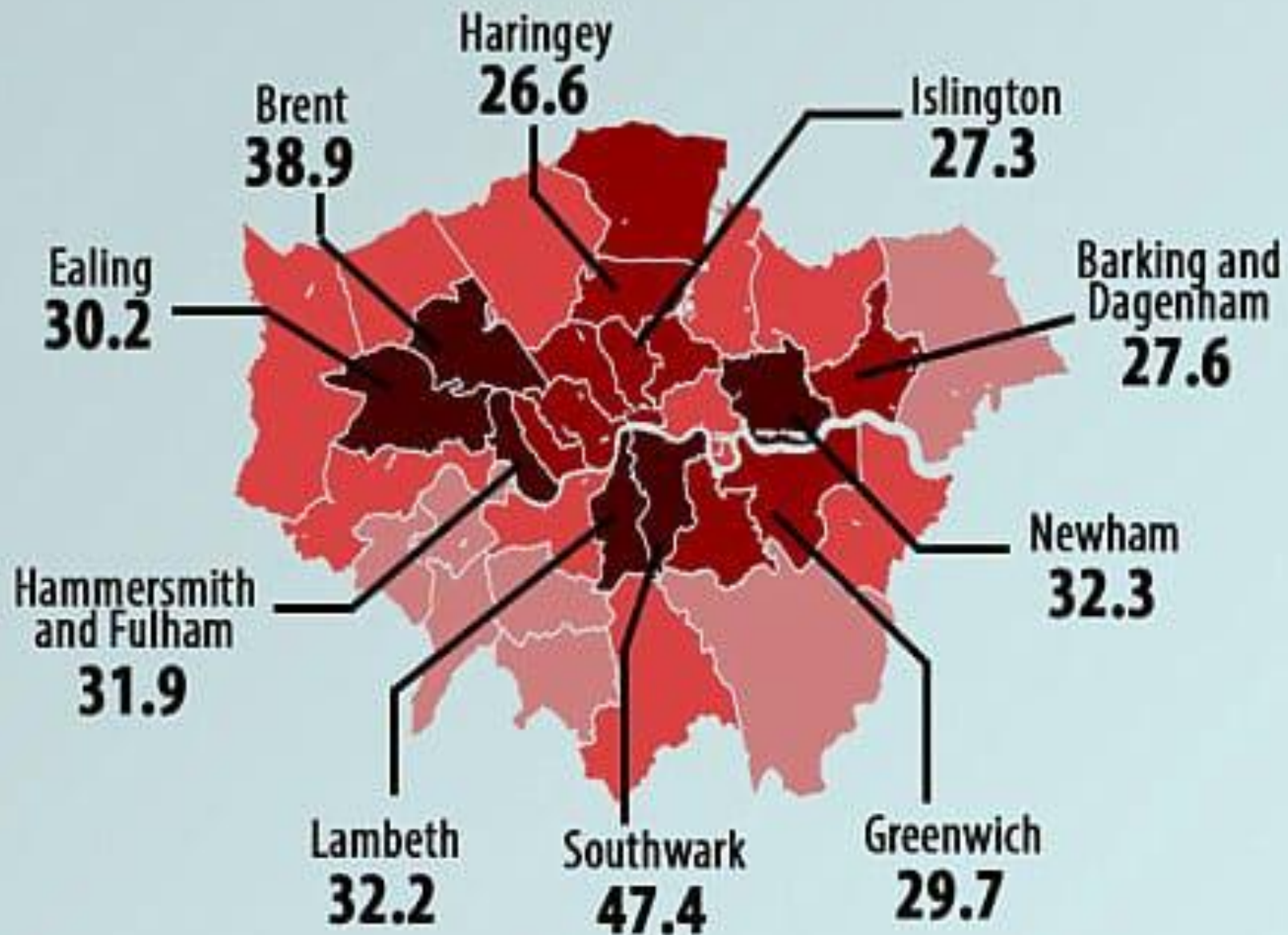




The Situation in the UK & World

- Research indicates that over **137,000** women living in England & Wales have undergone FGM.
- Research in 2007 indicated **24,000** girls under 15 years old in the UK have undergone or are at risk of undergoing FGM.
- Newer research from 2014 suggested up to **60,000** girls are now at risk.
- Globally, over **200** million girls and women have undergone FGM.

London



FGM Act - 2003



Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003

CHAPTER 31

The FGM law:

- It is illegal to practice FGM in the UK *
- It is illegal to take a girl abroad for FGM
- It has a penalty of (up to) 14 years imprisonment and/or a fine.

* Applies to England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Scotland has its own law on FGM)



The Serious Crimes Act 2015

- The Act made several changes to the FGM Act 2003 -

Extended Protections

Introduced 4 new laws:

1. Offence of failing to protect girls
2. Life-long anonymity for victims in publications
3. New *'female genital mutilation protection orders'*
4. Duty to notify police of FGM cases on girls under 18 within one month (for professionals).