

# FGM NETWORK

NEWS

ISSUE 2

## WELCOME!

A very warm welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of our Newsletter. We would like to say a big thank you to all of you who have sent such positive feedback from our first issue and contributed to this latest edition. We've got new research info from all over the UK today and a particularly interesting report on the actual use of the term "Female Genital Mutilation" or "FGM" which is well worth a read. Thank you and enjoy!

**Sarah McCulloch, National Director, Agency for Culture and Change Management**

## NEWS

### GLASGOW

FGM Network Newsletter sends out a big thanks to JEAN MURPHY of Violence Against Women in Glasgow. She has been updating us on what's happening North of the Border. A report has become available in conjunction with Strathclyde Police and Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid on domestic abuse and forced marriage within BME communities in Glasgow. The research the report covers was conducted circa 2005 but has only just become available. If you'd like to see a copy of the full report click on the following link <http://accmsheffield.org/links/RighttoChoose.pdf>. We're sure many of you, particularly our Scottish members, will find this report very interesting and useful.



## NEWS & LATEST RESEARCH

### Integration of Complementary Therapies into Service provision for African women who have experienced Female Genital Mutilation

The Waltham Forest African Well Womens Service was set up in 1999 to fill a gap in the ability local health services to meet the needs of women who have undergone FGM. In 2003 the service won the Innovative and Creative Practice Award for Care of Refugees and Asylum Seekers. This award was presented by the Queens Nursing Institute and The Directorate of Health and Social Care (London).

We particularly looked at homeopathy because it has always based itself on the interrelation of the psyche and the soma. Practically all homeopathy drug pictures show correlations between the psyche and specific physical symptoms. The therapist takes into account past trauma, the secondary processing of those experiences and the current symptoms when determining homeopathic treatment. It was important for clients to feel comfortable that their physical symptoms were being addressed as well as benefiting from the counselling aspect of the homeopathy consultation.

The pilot took place over the award year and was evaluated using a validated tool, the MYMPO2. The women were aged between 19 and 48 and 94% of them had had their health problems for over one year. The most common types of problems were abdominal pain (29%) and musculoskeletal pain (25%). The MYMOP forms were completed before treatment and at every consultation. The scores showed a mean improvement in symptoms of 3.23 in the MYMOP2 profile score. It would be wonderful to be able to continue this work and add to research however, this is difficult

## NEWS & LATEST RESEARCH

Con't....

due to current financial constraints.

The pilot also won the NHS Alliance Acorn Award 2005 for Integration of Complementary Therapies into Healthcare.

A full copy of this report is available in hard copy. For further information please contact Jennifer Bourne, Specialist Nurse for FGM. [Jennifer.bourne@wf-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:Jennifer.bourne@wf-pct.nhs.uk)

## USEFUL CONTACTS

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## NEWS & LATEST RESEARCH

### Safeguarding Girls at Risk of FGM

Waltham Forest (WF) in NE London has a very diverse population and the African Well Womens Service was established in 1999 to meet a gap in service provision for affected women. It became evident that there was no co-ordinated approach to the identify girls at risk of the practice, provide information and support to families and there was a large gap in awareness of multi agency professionals around the practice.

We worked closely with our colleagues in Child Protection within the PCT and with other agencies through the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to produce a protocol for the Borough and are very grateful to Cardiff LSCB for sharing their policy with us.

The WF protocol was ratified by the LSCB in October 2006. The team work closely with the Metropolitan Police and Project Azure and were part of the steering group at the London Councils for the new London protocol for FGM. The WF protocol has been used to inform this new document.

WF LSCB plans to launch the protocol through training for professionals and within community and young people's groups in the Borough. Our service will play an integral part in the launch and Faduma Hussein, the community health adviser and Leyla Hussein, the youth outreach worker will be working with the communities.

We were able to share our experiences of addressing the issues of FGM at the London Safeguarding Children Board conference in December 2006 and the National LSCB conference in Birmingham in March.

## NEWS & LATEST RESEARCH

Con't ....

For further details please contact:

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[Leyla.hussein@wf-pct.nhs.uk](mailto:Leyla.hussein@wf-pct.nhs.uk) Youth outreach worker

**BRISTOL** Thanks to Jackie Mathers, Child Protection Nurse Manager of Bristol PCT for the following update from Bristol:-

"Dear all  
This is just an update on the FGM guidelines we have produced. I presented them to the BSCB and these were well received and accepted by the board and if you go to the SWCPP ( south West Child Protection Procedures- on line see email below) and go into the procedures and either search or go to index you will see our guidelines have been accepted by the whole of the SW region , there are 2 or 3 minor changes made from the wider SW consultation and they have changed BSCB to read SW procedures. I would like to say a very big thank you and I feel this group needs to feel really proud on this piece of work which has received regional recognition WELL DONE."

Con't ...

## NEWS & LATEST RESEARCH

### E-mail from BSCB

To members of Bristol Safeguarding Children Board:  
Please distribute the following information widely.  
Stage 2 of the South West Child Protection procedures is now on the website at [www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk) The following have been added under Supplementary procedures:  
· allegations against staff - (flowchart to follow)  
· complex cases  
· fabricated or induced illness  
· female genital mutilation  
· forced marriage  
· serious case reviews  
· sexually active young people  
· substance misuse

There's been a slight problem with the formatting, so they look a bit different from the main procedures however this will be rectified very soon.  
The steering group meets regularly and welcomes feedback on the content which can be sent via [lucy.young@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.young@bristol.gov.uk)  
Lucy Young  
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## USEFUL CONTACTS

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**ERITREA** We're very grateful to **Efua Doorkanoo OBE** who reports the following:-

### **Eritrea bans female circumcision** **By Jack Kimball**

ASMARA (Reuters) - Eritrea has banned female circumcision, a life-threatening tradition that aid groups say afflicts some 90 percent of the country's women.

A government statement issued on Thursday said anyone who requested, took part in or promoted the practice now faced a fine of several hundred dollars or up to 10 years in jail. "Female circumcision is a procedure that seriously endangers the health of women, causes them considerable pain and suffering besides threatening their lives," the statement said.

Pattyjo

"Whosoever requests, incites or promotes female circumcision ... shall be punishable with a fine and imprisonment."

The ban took effect on March 31, it said.

Female circumcision, also called female genital mutilation (FGM), is widespread in the Horn of Africa and involves cutting off the clitoris and other parts of the female genitalia.

There are degrees of severity and many practitioners are untrained and use crude instruments.

"FGM is a deep rooted culture and it needs a persistent continuous effort (to halt it)," Luul Ghebreab, president of National Union of Eritrean Women, told Reuters.

"We do not believe (this ban) will automatically eradicate circumcision, but surely it will play a role."

Up to 140 million women and girls worldwide are estimated to have undergone female circumcision, and U.N. agencies estimate that another three million a year are subjected to it.

A health survey by Eritrea's government in 2002 found 62 percent of circumcised women in the Red Sea state had the procedure done before their first birthday. Less than one percent had been performed by trained health professionals.

## ARE YOU A GODPARENT?

Godparents News Newsletter and their website at [www.godparents.net](http://www.godparents.net) is well worth taking a look at for interesting news and views on all aspects of parenting and being a godparent. The latest edition includes news on FGM and Uganda. Don't miss out! You can sign up for this newsletter at [GMAsn@aol.com](mailto:GMAsn@aol.com).

## ACCM NEEDS YOU! JOB ADVERTISEMENT

There are currently exciting opportunities to work with us here at ACCM! Click here for more info: <http://www.accmsheffield.org/links/jobspec.doc>. Details can also be found on our website [www.accmsheffield.org](http://www.accmsheffield.org). Or click here <http://www.accmsheffield.org/links/Jobappform.doc> For an application form.

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REPORT

CONT ...

## **Declaration on the terminology FGM: 6<sup>th</sup> IAC General assembly, 4-7 April 05, Bamako/Mali**

National committees of the IAC from more than 28 African countries in the African region as well as IAC groups sections, affiliates, partners, human rights organisations, donors and representatives from UN specialised agencies and the Economic Commission for Africa met to review progress, assess constraints and identify opportunities for strengthening campaigns against harmful traditional practices - particularly female genital mutilation.

An issue of concern at the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly have been attempts to dilute the terminology Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and replace it with the following - "Female Circumcision", "Female Genital Alteration", "Female Genital Excision". "Female Genital Surgery" and more recently "Female Genital Cutting" (FGC). Female Genital Cutting (FGC) does not reflect the accurate extent of harm and mutilation caused by all types of FGM. This terminology has been adopted by some UN specialised agencies and bilateral donors influenced by specific lobby groups largely based in western countries.

These changes trivialise the nature of Female Genital Mutilation and the suffering of African women and girls ... (and) .. Made without consultation, (they) override the consensus reached by African women in the front line of the campaign as well as the millions of African girls and women who suffer in silence. We want the world to know that in 1990 African women (activists) adopted the term FGM at the IAC General Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They took this brave step to confront the issue head on with their practising communities. Why? To avoid confusion, to emphasise the nature and gravity of the practice; to recognise that only a continuing and painful struggle can alter the mentality and behaviours of African people, yet to insist that this pain is integral to empower girls and women to address FGM and to take control of their sexuality and reproductive rights. Experience indicates that long terms change occur only when change agents help communities to go through this painful process. Not to confront the issues to promote denial of the gravity of FGM, thus resulting in mere transient change. We recognise that while it may be less threatening for non-Africans to adopt other less confrontational terminology in order to enter into dialogue with communities, it is imperative that the term FGM be retained. The term FGM is not judgmental. It is instead a medical term that reflects what is done to the genitalia of girls and women. It is a cultural reality. Mutilation is the

removal of healthy tissue. The fact that the term makes some people uneasy is no justification for its abandonment. We would highlight that FGM was adopted by consultation and consensus among African experts at the first technical working group meeting held in Geneva in 1995 and gained worldwide currency and acceptance. The Beijing conference also adopted and used Female Genital Mutilation. FGM has been adopted and endorsed by the European Union and the African Union. It is currently utilised by in all their documentation including the most recent Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, on the Rights of Women (Maputo).

While we appreciate the efforts made in response to FGM on the Continent and the Diaspora, it is patronising and belittling to African women and girls to have outsiders define their oppression. Indeed what gives anyone but Africans the right to change a term agreed upon by the largest group of African activists on this issue in the world? This is at best paternalism and is a sad reflection of how, after many years of African women working against FGM at the time when FGM was a taboo, the campaign has been hijacked by other snot involved at the beginning and who do not appreciate the nature of the struggle.

We the participants at the 6<sup>th</sup> IAC General Assembly demand a halt to this drift towards trivialising the traditional practice by adopting a subtle terminology.

We demand that all organisations and international bodies revert to the terminology adopted by the IAC in 1990 and reinforced in 2002.

We demand that international agencies recognise that right of NGOs in the field to continue to use FGM and not be denied funding because of this.

We demand that the voices of African women be heard and that their call to action against FGM be heeded.

Dated Thursday April 7 2005 at Bamako, Mali

**Many thanks to TOBE LEVIN.**

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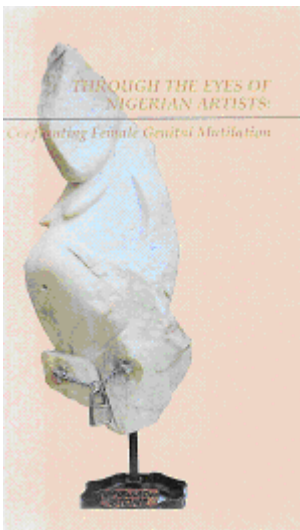
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## FGM & ART

### THROUGH THE EYES OF NIGERIAN ARTISTS:

*Confronting Female Genital Mutilation.* A fascinating insight and well worth a look. They do say a picture paints a thousand words! Thanks to Tobe Levin for details of this exhibition. To see this brochure in full click here - <http://www.accmsheffield.org/links/ArtExhibition.pdf>.



## OVER IN DUNDEE .....

Thanks to SALLY ANDERSON, Staff Development Officer to the Children and Young Persons Protection Committee in Dundee. She has been in touch to give us an insight of her work ...

"My remit is to develop a strategy for and co-ordinate the provision of appropriate multi-agency staff development opportunities in the area of Child Protection. I am part of a 3 person team comprised of the Lead Officer, Donald MacKenzie, admin support Emma Stewart and myself".

"The Children & Young Persons Protection Committee in Dundee is charged with the strategic leadership and implementation, between and across agencies, of the local child protection strategy. The membership is comprised of representatives from relevant agencies including local authority departments, social work, criminal justice services, education, leisure and communities together with representatives from the health services, Police, Scottish children's Report administration, Procurator Fiscal and the Voluntary Sector. There are also close links with the local drug and alcohol action team too".

Email Sally Anderson at [sally.anderson@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:sally.anderson@dundee.gov.uk)

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION - A PRACTICAL APPROACH

This is an exciting new course on FGM starting from September 2007

This course will enable you to increase your awareness of FGM and the social, cultural and economic issues as well as preparing you for enquiring about FGM, and performing de-infibulation.

For more information please contact:

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Many thanks to COMFORT MOMOH

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## LIVERPOOL FGM & MULTI-CULTURAL ADVISORY GROUP

The Group which was formed in 1999 has been involved in organising conferences and working with the community to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation. The group members are multi professionals with some community women and meets bi-monthly. It works in partnership with the PCT, Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Hospital and the Universities. It is at the moment developing its own website which will soon go live.

It will be hosting a Women's Health Awareness Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 with emphasis on FGM, HIV, and Domestic Violence.

The group has been invited by the Liverpool Safe Guarding Children (Education Team) to plan a future multi-disciplinary FGM Conference later on in the year.

For further info contact  
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## CONTACT US/FEEDBACK

We'd like your ideas/comments and suggestions! If you have anything to add to our next Issue please let us know and email it to [info@accmsheffield.org](mailto:info@accmsheffield.org)

Do you know an organisation that is undertaking work on FGM and are not mentioned on the list above and think should be included? Please tell them to tell us or you can forward us their details.

We hope you enjoyed this edition of the newsletter. Look forward to hearing from you!

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## UGANDAN WORKS AGAINST FEMALE CIRCUMCISION

Beatrice Chelangat, Programme Manager for the UNFPA's REACH Project in Kapchorwa, is the person leading the campaign against female circumciision or cutting in Uganda. Beatrice who herself is from the Kapchorwa tribe refused to have herself circumcised but seen her friends and school mates going through the agonising ritual decided to do something. When elected as head of gender of the Makerere University Sabinu Students Association, she ceased the opportunity to fight against the practice and protect her fellow Sabinu girls. She the campaign to schools churches and participated in the research undertaken by Agency for COOPERATION, Research and Development (ACORD) on FGM which showed the extent and implications of FGM.

In 1994 she wrote a proposal which led to the establishment of the Reproductive Education and Community Health (REACH) organisation which was launched by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). It is now over 10 years and the group has been speaking and campaigning openly and the campaign is starting to bear fruit as results show a decrease in the numbers being circumcised. Ten years ago over 90% of the girls and women of the Sabinu were circumcised but now only 600 out of 10,000 have undergone the practice.

Chelangat now says that before the campaign started even educated women used to have themselves circumcised to appease their husbands and in-laws and those living in the village were not allowed to milk cows as they were not seen to be clean nor were they allowed to attend their son's circumcision ritual. But these attitudes are now changing thanks to the campaign by REACH. On her own experiences she says she is lucky to have found a man who understands the implications of FGM despite everyone telling him she will not have time for him. Chelangat says he is very supportive of her work. Chelangat still have support for those who are victims of FGM and tries to work with them in particular to ensure that they do not themselves perform FGM on their daughters in the future.

For further details about the REACH Project contact Beatrice on [Chelangatbeatrice2004@yahoo.com](mailto:Chelangatbeatrice2004@yahoo.com) or you can click on this link for further info.  
<http://accmsheffield.org/links/ugandareport.doc>

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AND FINALLY .....

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Not For Sale Sunday is an opportunity to say that women's, children's and men's bodies are Not For Sale. Women and Children and Men are made in the image of God, and we are called to enbale that image to grow, develop and be reflected in all our lives, for everybody, no matter what their age, race, creed or gender.

It is estimated that over 4,000 women are trafficked into the UK every year. We have evidence of over 80 young people who have been trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation over the last 3 years.

In Suffolk earlier this year 5 young British women were murdered whilst about their work as on Street prostitutes. They experiences the worst excesses of malevolence and brutality as victims of a multiple murderer. Over the last ten years as many as 60 women have been murdered whilst working in prostitution. Just under half of those working on the street report violent attacks on them. The market for pay-as-you-go sex is growing across Europe.

Not For Sale Sunday is part of a weekend of activities where you and your church, friends, family and colleagues can engage with the issue of sexual exploitation today.

Make Not for Sale Sunday (20 May 2007) your time to reflect, respond and start to make a difference in a world where women, children and young men are subject to abuse, privation, sexual humiliaion and violation.

Liturgy, prayers and bible studies available for your church online and in print from April 2007. Sponsored awareness raising and activities details online from March 2007.

[www.notforsalesunday.org](http://www.notforsalesunday.org)

[www.chaste.org.uk](http://www.chaste.org.uk)

Email [notforsale@chaste.org.uk](mailto:notforsale@chaste.org.uk)

Not for Sale Sunday is an initiative of Churches Alter to Sex Trafixking Across Europe. CHASTE works with NCAP, CROP and ECPAT to raise awareness and the Medaille Trust and The Salvation Army to deliver care. CHASTE facilitates the UKHTC Research Forum - [www.ukhtc.org](http://www.ukhtc.org)

If you wish to make a donation please contact  
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