The Government response to FGM

Key principles to our approach

- There is no justification for female genital mutilation (FGM). It is child abuse and it is illegal.

- "We are absolutely clear that political or cultural sensitivities must not get in the way of preventing and uncovering this terrible form of criminal activity. The law in this country applies to absolutely everyone."

- FGM is a global problem which requires an international solution.

- The government has published a cross-government strategy, *A Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls*, and our supporting action plan (updated March 2014). FGM is an integral part of this plan.

- Legislation alone cannot eliminate the practice, it needs a multi faceted response.
The Girl Summit had three objectives:

1. **Sharing what works:** learning and celebrating success
   - Over 70 speakers sharing examples of good practice and insights

2. **Agreeing an agenda for change:** securing commitment to action
   - The Girl Summit Charter
   - 170 governments, organisations and individuals made commitments
   - 315 faith representatives in the UK signed an inter-faith declaration condemning FGM.

3. **Engaging people for change:** inspiring a generation to end FGM
   - The Girl Summit social media campaign,
   - *Media campaign*
   - #YouthForChange

**UK package of commitments**
- Highlighted that everyone has a responsibility to end FGM.
- Focused on improving the law enforcement response, supporting frontline professionals and working with communities to prevent abuse.
Improving the law enforcement response

- We are bringing forward legislation to make the law clearer on parents’ or guardians’ liability for failing to prevent their child being subjected to FGM and to grant victims of FGM lifelong anonymity.

- We are consulting on how best to introduce mandatory reporting for FGM.

- Extending the reach of the extra-territorial offences in the FGM Act 2003 to habitual (as well as permanent) UK residents.

- Carried out a consultation on whether, and how, a new civil protection order could work alongside criminal legislation to protect potential victims of FGM.

- The College of Policing has carried out a consultation on new authorised professional practice on FGM to raise awareness amongst investigators and better equip them to tackle the practice.
Supporting frontline professionals

– Setting up a national FGM Prevention Programme, working in partnership with NHS England with a budget of £1.4m this financial year.

– The Chief Social Worker is developing standards which all newly qualified child and family social workers will have to meet.

– We launched improved multi-agency practice guidelines on how to tackle cases of FGM, a new FGM elearning package for safeguarding practitioners and a resource pack for commissioners.

– The Department for Education commissioned the PSHE association to produce briefing for schools on FGM and EFM.

– We are created a new function on GOV.UK which will signpost local FGM support services.

– We are setting up a specialist FGM unit to drive a step change in nationwide outreach on FGM with criminal justice partners, children’s services, healthcare professionals and affected communities.
The Home Office launched a communications campaign to raise awareness of FGM and to signpost the NSPCC FGM Helpline on 2 June.

£90k has been made available from the Department of Communities and Local Government to fund further community engagement projects to tackle FGM.

£30k is being made available from the Department of Communities and Local Government to support a network of community champions to tackle FGM and Forced Marriage.

Over 200 Faith Leaders from all the major faiths have signed a declaration condemning FGM. They have declared that it is not required by their religions and is a form of child abuse.
Questions

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