

**PROGRESSIVE ISLAM IN
PRACTICE**



ISLAM & FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

PART I

@MPVUSA | #ISLAMISJUSTICE



WHAT IS FGM?

- Partial or total removal of or other injury to external female genitalia.
- Conducted for non medical reasons.
- Has no known health benefits.
- A violation of the rights of girls and women.
- Traditionally done by healers, the process has seen a medicalization over the years.
- Currently there are four types of FGM practiced worldwide.



TYPES OF FGM

- **Type 1:** Partial or total removal of the clitoral glans and/or the clitoral hood.
- **Type 2:** Partial or total removal of clitoral glans and labia minora, with or without the removal of the labia majora.
- **Type 3:** Infibulation or the narrowing of the vaginal opening with a covering seal by cutting or stitching the labia minora or labia majora.
- **Type 4:** other harmful procedures to genitals including pricking, piercing, or scraping.



ORIGINS OF FGM

Although the origins of FGM are unclear, historians know that it predates the rise of both Christianity and Islam. Some Egyptian mummies display signs of FGM while some historians claim there is evidence that FGM was practiced in the 5th century by the Phoenicians, the Hittites, and the Ethiopians. In Europe and the United States, up until 1950s clitoridectomies were practiced as 'treatment' for masturbation, melancholia, and mental disorders. Circumcision rites for women were also practiced by early Romans and certain tribes in the Upper Amazon and the Philippines.



WHY IS FGM PERFORMED?

- Social pressures to conform to what others are doing.
- An act to control a woman's sexual desires.
- Considered a rite of passage to prepare a girl for adulthood and marriage.
- Associated with cultural beliefs of femininity and modesty.
- Belief that it ensures premarital virginity and marital fidelity.
- Believed to increase a woman's marriageability.
- Associated with cleanliness and beauty.



WHAT ARE THE SHORT TERM IMPACTS OF FGM?

- Severe pain
- Excessive bleeding (hemorrhage)
- Urinary problems
- Death
- Genital tissue swelling
- Infections, including tetanus
- Fever
- Wound healing problems
- Injury to genital tissue



WHAT ARE THE LONG TERM IMPACTS OF FGM?

- Decreased sexual pleasure
- Depression and anxiety
- Urinary Tract Infections
- Pain during sexual intercourse
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Bacterial Vaginosis
- Excessive bleeding during childbirth
- Increased risk of newborn deaths
- Painful menstruations



FGM IN NUMBERS

- At least 200 million girls and women age 15 - 49 have undergone FGM.
- An estimated 31 countries have a substantial practice of FGM.
- Around 1 in 3 adolescent girls who have undergone FGM were cut by a medical professional.
- In affected countries, 70% of girls and women think the practice should end.
- Three million girls and young women are at risk of FGM every year.



WHERE DOES FGM OCCUR?

- Malaysia
- Egypt
- Sudan
- Somalia
- Ethiopia
- Djibouti
- Mali
- Guinea
- Sierra Leone
- Eritrea
- Burkina Faso
- Mauritania
- Ireland
- United States
- Russia
- Canada



- Indonesia
- France
- Sweden
- Germany
- Oman
- Sudan
- Liberia
- The Gambia
- The United Kingdom



REFERENCES

- *Female Genital Mutilation* - World Health Organization
- *Prevalence of FGM* - World Health Organization
- *Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting* - UNICEF
- *What is Female Genital Mutilation? 7 Questions Answered* - UNICEF
- *Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting* - Office on Women's Health
- *Female Genital Mutilation Frequently Asked Questions* - United Nations Population Fund
- *No Time For Inaction: Female Genital Mutilation Is Global, But So Is The Movement To End It* - Equality Now
- *Female Genital Mutilation* - Forward
- *Women and Girls at Risk of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in the United States* - PBR