



HM Government

22 JULY 2015 – UK GOVERNMENT PROGRESS ON TACKLING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE SINCE GIRL SUMMIT 2014

On 22 July 2014 the Prime Minister and UNICEF hosted the first **Girl Summit**, aimed at mobilising domestic and international efforts to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) within a generation.

The Girl Summit launched a global movement against FGM and CEFM, with over 180 commitments from a range of governments and civil society actors worldwide towards ending the practices, and over 490 pledges for the 'Girl Summit Charter'.

In the past year there has been huge progress. Action taken by the UK Government, survivors, voluntary sector partners, and frontline professionals has put preventing and tackling FGM and CEFM firmly on the national agenda. The UK has taken bold action to meet the commitments made at the Summit, including work to safeguard children from harm, strengthen the law, improve the law enforcement response, support frontline professionals, and work with communities.

Things are changing. Women and girls are increasingly speaking out, and more and more people are saying no these practices. Across the UK Government we undertake to build on this momentum and continue to do all we can to protect girls and women and to end FGM and CEFM within a generation.

Key achievements and next steps:

The Department for International Development has launched a £36 million programme to accelerate action to end child marriage and is continuing with the implementation of its £35 million programme to support the Africa-led movement to end FGM in 17 countries. We will continue to work to ensure that our programmes on FGM and Child Marriage are delivering, as well as use our international work to encourage other donors to increase resources for efforts to end FGM and CEFM in countries of highest prevalence.

The **Home Office** has launched a specialist FGM unit, funded a study on the prevalence of FGM in England and Wales, ran a communications campaign to raise awareness of FGM, funded 12 FGM community engagement projects, provided an additional £60,000 for a helpline for forced marriage victims, and continued an ongoing programme of outreach with communities and professionals. This year, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will conduct a review into honour-based violence, including FGM and forced marriage, to ensure that the police response is as good as it can be. We will implement the new duty introduced through the Serious Crime Act which requires teachers and regulated healthcare and social care professionals to report known cases of FGM in under 18s to the police. And we will work with partners to ensure a secure future for specialist FGM and forced marriage units.



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The **Ministry of Justice** has, through the Serious Crime Act 2015, introduced FGM Protection Orders and lifelong anonymity for victims of FGM, extended the reach of extra territorial offences, and created a new offence of failing to protect a girl from the risk of FGM. We will keep the law under review to ensure that it protects those at risk.

The **Department of Health** has a £3m national FGM Prevention Programme underway, in partnership with NHS England. This is delivering a package of support for staff to improve the NHS response to FGM, including collecting and publishing the first ever statistics about patients with FGM, from across the NHS. This has now been extended to apply to all acute and mental health trusts and GP practices. The programme has reached thousands of professionals with over 2,000 attending awareness sessions, many more accessing the free elearning sessions, and nearly 8,000 GPs receiving FGM resource packs with targeted training and safeguarding materials to them directly. The next stage of the programme will improve NHS safeguarding systems, work to address the mental health needs of those with FGM, and embed the recent training, developments and new guidance across the NHS.

The **Department for Education** has funded a £2m national programme backed by Barnardo's and the Local Government Association that will create a highly specialised team of skilled social workers with extensive experience of working with those at risk of FGM. We will continue to work with partners across Government to support teachers and social workers to respond effectively to this form of abuse.

The **Department for Communities and Local Government and the Government Equalities Office** have provided £270,000 funding to 15 community projects to tackle FGM and forced marriage, reaching thousands of girls and young people at risk. They have also set up networks of community champions against FGM and forced marriage, and secured over 350 signatures from leaders of every major faith in the UK to declarations condemning FGM and forced marriage. We will continue to build on the learning gained from these projects, develop understanding of what works in community engagement and embed good practice.

The **Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)** has appointed and trained lead FGM prosecutors for each CPS Area and local Police/CPS FGM Protocols have been agreed with the 43 police force areas setting out the arrangements for investigation and prosecution of FGM. We will continue to work closely with the police in providing early investigative advice on cases referred, maintain our local community engagement highlighting the recent changes to the law, and work with partners across Government and health professionals to continue to improve our response.

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