Faith and Community Leaders Unite to End FGM

To send a clear message to communities during Friday and/or Sunday congregation that:

- FGM is not supported by any religious doctrine
- FGM is a form of violence against women and girls
- FGM is a human rights violation
- Religious or cultural sensitivities must not get in the way of uncovering and stopping this abuse
- It can have a life-long impact on survivors’ physical and psychological health
- In the UK, FGM is a criminal offence (it is also illegal in many countries in Africa and around the world)
- It is illegal to take a girl who is a British national or who usually lives in the UK abroad for FGM, or to help someone who is trying to do it
- You can be imprisoned for 14 years for carrying out FGM or helping it to take place
- It is the duty and responsibilities of parents, families and communities to safeguard and protect their daughters
- If you are concerned about a girl, get in touch with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for advice (you can speak to them anonymously if you’re not sure if the family needs help) or if a girl is in immediate danger, call 999.
- There is support for survivors’ physical and emotional health provided by the Oxford Rose Clinic, based at the John Radcliffe Hospital, and the doctors are women. The Oxford Rose Clinic accepts self-referrals via email oxfordrose.clinic@nhs.net or phone/text 07767 671 406. This is a confidential service open to pregnant and non-pregnant women.
- There is an app and website called Let’s Talk FGM that can help support conversations about FGM
- Pick up a leaflet or look at Oxford Against Cutting’s posters for helpline numbers