



OxfordAgainstCutting
StopFemaleGenitalMutilation

POSITION STATEMENT ON FEMALE GENITAL HARM

Oxford Against Cutting is against all types of cutting and harm to the female genitalia for non-medical reasons.

We are fully committed to bringing about an end to the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) of women and girls living in Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley. We stand firmly opposed to any form of harm or cutting for cultural reasons, no matter where it is carried out or by whom.

We stand against any type of harm whatsoever to the female genitalia that is carried out for cultural reasons, including any practice that is considered “a lesser cut” or a “little bit of nicking”. These procedures violate the physical integrity of the female body. In particular, the girl child cannot consent to any such procedures.

We condemn the medicalisation of female genital cutting. Medicalisation threatens the health and safety of the vulnerable girls and young women we seek to protect. We therefore call upon all health professionals, including nurses, midwives, doctors and surgeons to work together to ensure that this harmful practice is not perpetuated and that any practitioner known to be so doing faces immediate expulsion from the profession and criminal proceedings.

In addition, we consider that cosmetic female genital surgery that is carried out for cultural reasons is a violation of human rights.

We call upon medical professionals to follow the Hippocratic Oath (revised 2017): ‘I will not use my medical knowledge to violate human right and civil liberties, even under threat.’

We consider harm or injury to the genitalia of girls or women for cultural reasons is unacceptable in any form.