

# Safeguarding

## Female Genital Mutilation (2)



### TASK

Test your knowledge with a game of True or False.

1. FGM is a religious right of passage and we must not interfere.
2. It is illegal to perform FGM on a British citizen both in the UK and abroad.
3. If the child's parents consent and are present during the procedure, it is not against the law.
4. Protecting individuals from FGM is integral to safeguarding.
5. It is the equivalent of the male circumcision.
6. A girl has the right to choose to have FGM.
7. The girl will heal quickly following the procedure and complications are unlikely.
8. People from other communities do not understand and therefore should not get involved.
9. It is illegal to assist a girl or woman to mutilate her own genitalia.
10. FGM can cause lasting physical and emotional harm to the individual

## Answers

1. **FALSE.** FGM is not a religious right of passage. It is child abuse and we must safeguard children in the same way we would any other form of abuse.
2. **TRUE.** It is in fact illegal to perform FGM on a British citizen both in the UK and abroad. Amendments to the *Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985* were made in 2003 making it a criminal offence for any UK national or permanent UK resident to take their child abroad to have FGM under the renamed *Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003*.
3. **FALSE.** It is illegal, and anyone found guilty of this offence faces a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.
4. **TRUE.** Protecting individuals from FGM is integral to safeguarding.
5. **FALSE.** It is not the equivalent of the male circumcision and can instead cause significant physical and emotional trauma.
6. **FALSE.** It is against the law and therefore cannot be consented to.
7. **FALSE.** Immediate and long-term complications are very common.
8. **FALSE.** FGM is a form of abuse and all individuals have a responsibility to take action should they suspect that a girl is at risk.
9. **TRUE.** It is illegal to assist a girl or woman to mutilate her own genitalia.
10. **TRUE.** FGM can cause lasting physical and emotional harm to the individual.

How did you do? Discuss with a partner, anything new you have learned from this task.