



EOW - Charity

Together We can be the Change of Tomorrow



STOP MUTILATING YOUNG GIRLS' GENITALS...

...and let's work together to end female genital mutilation!

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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ABSTRACT

Educate to Eradicate FGM

Education in Female Genital Mutilation(FGM) is the Way Forward to Eradicate it!

Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female genital cutting (FGC), is a controversial procedure that involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other non-medical injury to the female genital organs. FGM is internationally recognised as a violation of the human rights of girls and women as it denies women and young girls security and personal liberty, privacy and bodily integrity, freedom of conscience and the right to good health and well-being, and is a form of child abuse. The personal consequences of FGM include physical, emotional and psychological trauma for those who survive and can also lead to death due to haemorrhage or infection, including tetanus, and shock.

Although FGM is normally practised in many countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, it is no longer restricted to these geographical areas due to increasing globalisation.

In the UK, it has been estimated that over 20,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of FGM each year, and that 66,000 women in the UK are living with the consequences of FGM.

In 2011 Eva Organization for Women (EOW-Charity) in collaboration with the University of Leicester hosted its first impact national FGM Conference at the University of Leicester; this was a resounding success in bringing together community leaders and religious scholars, health professionals and legal practitioners and victims of this illegal but still practised tradition, to raise awareness.

Therefore, this symposium is a follow-up, aimed at providing a unique opportunity to gain invaluable perspective, insight and best practice and understanding of the current framework of FGM. This symposium will also highlight the importance of three-dimensional approaches (community leaders/religious scholars, professional practitioners and local authors) which needs to be strengthened in order to ensure better awareness, early intervention and prevention of FGM, so that together we help those who really need our support. We at EOW believe that education is the way forward to eradicate FGM; therefore, in this symposium we are also launching an educational package for both professionals and communities alike.

PROGRAMME

- 09:30 Registration and Refreshments
- 10:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks (Catherine Parker)
- 10:05 Current perspective and insight of FGM from three dimensional approaches
- Medical and psychological impact of FGM and Medical service for FGM victims here in Leicester (Dr Nimatullah Omoteso)
 - Case studies (Dr Sadiyo Siad)
 - Engaging the community (Caroline Overton)
 - Prevention of FGM - Criminal law vs Family law (Terri Harman)
- 11:25 Tea/coffee break
- 11:35 Understanding the different cultural and religious causes of FGM
- Speaker: Dr Nimatullah Omoteso
- 11:50 Break up into two workshops
- Workshop 1:
 - Workshop 2:
- 12:50 Networking lunch break
- 13:40 Increase capacity building for professionals
- Legal aspect of FGM (Sarah Poppleton)
 - Child protection system (Rama Ramakrishnan)
 - Changing the mind-set of the practising communities (Dr Ann-Marie Wilson)
 - Building trust between the community and professionals (Kinis Clark)
- 15:00 Tea/coffee break
- 15:10 Forum (Chair Kris Isa)
- Dr Nimatullah Omoteso
 - Dr Ann-Marie Wilson
 - Sarah Poppleton
 - Kinsi Clarke
 - Dr Sethi Sudhir
 - Rama Ramakrishnan
- 16:30 Symposium close



PROFILES

Ann-Marie Wilson

Ann-Marie is a psychologist with over 30 years' experience. She founded and runs an anti-FGM charity 28 Too Many (www.28toomany.org), focused on research, networks, capacity development and advocacy. 28 Too Many works closely with the UK and overseas governments, NGOs and UN bodies and has delivered numerous papers, posters and talks on FGM and related issues. 28 Too Many has published FGM research reports on six countries in East and West Africa, and is an Associate Member of UN Inter African Committee. Prior to founding 28 Too Many, Ann-Marie worked in aid work within 14 countries, and in corporate human resources, studying business and cross-cultural studies.



Caroline Overton is a senior lawyer who volunteers as Programmes Manager for 28 Too Many where she manages operations, programmes and volunteers. She has been involved in health and educational programmes in Uganda and China and is passionate about seeing people equipped to bring about change in their communities.

Kinsi Clarke has more than 15 years of working in local authority, higher education and in the voluntary/third sector. During that time, Kinsi gained a wide-spectrum level of skills, experience and knowledge across different service sectors. Currently she is the manager of an NHS funded Health Project at Nottingham Refugee Forum, which she set up with a colleague nearly 5 years ago. As an FGM survivor, Kinsi is passionate about supporting the eradication of FGM and is an activist and a campaigner in this context. She is devoted to the causes of social justice and human rights, and particularly to the welfare of refugees and asylum seekers. She is the current community representative of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County FGM Strategic Board.

Kinsi holds a first class honours degree and two master's degrees in Human Rights Law, and Public Health, respectively.

PROFILES

Dr Nimatullah Omoteso

BSc Anatomy, MBBS; DFRH
Specialty Registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.

Sarah Poppleton

I am a Detective Constable working in the Child Abuse Investigation Unit of Leicestershire Police and act as the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for female genital mutilation within the Force, reporting to the Force Strategic Lead for FGM.

My role involves:

- Developing specialist knowledge in the practices involved with FGM and investigation of those offences
- To provide advice/support in Force Liaison with the Force Strategic Lead in developing Force responses to FGM and Partnership working
- Review Force procedures against (Draft) Authorised Professional Practice
- Increase awareness of FGM in Force
- Provision of Specialist training materials in Force (and delivery as required)
- Developing working relationship with partners
- Promote FGM Best Practice with partners
- Review and report on all FGM referrals to the Force and identify opportunities for improvement
- Identify opportunities to engage with the community regarding FGM

My previous police roles include 4 years as a Domestic Abuse Investigation Officer, initially covering the east side of the county before transferring to the city. In this role, I encountered a wide variety of abuse cases, including honour based violence and forced marriage, which both have links to FGM.

PROFILES

Terri Harman - Associate and Solicitor Nelsons Solicitors

Terri qualified as a Solicitor in 1996 and joined Nelsons in 2010. She is experienced in representing parties in a wide range of cases, including female genital mutilation, forced marriages, domestic violence, international child abduction, children law matters (private and public), care proceedings (adults and children), special guardianship, adoption (UK private and public) and jurisdictional cases.

Terri also specialises in international contact and residence disputes and international adoption. She has acted for adults with learning difficulties and has held surgeries at several charitable and voluntary organisations.

Terri is a Member of the Official Solicitors Child Abduction Panel, and a Member of Law Society Accreditation Scheme (children and adult representative). She is also a Resolution accredited specialist in International Child Abduction and Private Children Law and Domestic Violence.

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PROFILES

Kris Isa is a multi-talented, self-employed social entrepreneur who has a passion for helping and motivating others and will be running the workshop, 'A Mindset for Success'. Kris, currently a resident of Leicester City, is a Nigerian born British citizen, raised in Peckham, South London. Despite coming from a broken family and having a tough and disadvantaged upbringing, then falling through the 'social gap' and unfortunately ending up behind bars, as an ex-convict he refused to become 'just another statistic' and did not accept failure or defeat. Instead, being a strong-minded, determined, confident character he managed to turn his life around through faith, self-discipline, persistence and hard work and by creating and taking every opportunity he could to re-invent himself – accepting no excuses! Following an early career in the entertainment industry and with a professional background in creative marketing, recruitment, project development and international trade relations, Kris has worked since the age of 15 both for himself and others, then in March 2010 he was appointed chairman of the Leicestershire Ethnic Minority Partnership, a position he still holds today on a voluntary basis.

Dr Sethi Sudhir "designated doctor" on FGM, according to the Leicester Safeguarding Children Board for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Rama Ramakrishnan I qualified as a social worker in 1981. I worked as a social worker in India for five years. I started working for Social Services in 1986 and have worked in Hertfordshire County Council and Northamptonshire County Council as a social worker for fifteen years. I joined the NSPCC as a Children's Services Manager in 1999, managing the NSPCC Bal Raksha Project. I am currently a Service manager for the same service, known as the Leicester Service Centre since 2010.

FORUM

Kris Isa - **Chair:**
Dr Nimatullah Omoteso
Dr Ann-Marie Wilson
DC4088 Sarah Poppleton
Kinis Clark
Dr Sethi Sudhir
Rama Ramakrishnan
Dr Cornelia Wiesender



THANK YOU

We thank everyone who has made this conference possible, especially, Awards for All (Big Lottery Fund), our guest speakers, our volunteers and everyone who has attended today.

"Together We can be the Change of Tomorrow" - EOW



ABOUT US



Eva the Organization for Women (aka EOW-Charity) is a UK-registered charity (reg. no. 1156347) run by volunteers, aimed to empower people who are in charitable need, in particular women, their families and young people. We advocate the development of individuals to help them make their future brighter by supporting them to unleash their potential.

In the context of FGM, as a grassroots organisation, what we are doing is to raise awareness by hosting conferences, seminars and workshops and educating the next generation to prevent FGM, producing an information package, providing listening services and providing training for both professionals and communities alike. This is facilitated by our well experienced and dedicated volunteers including EOW's Chief Executive and founder Dr Sadiyo Siad who is not only an FGM survivor and an activist and a campaigner but also has experienced FGM first-hand on numerous occasions and worked as a nurse and midwife assistant in Somali. Dr Siad is also an educator in FGM and has been so for more than 17 years in both Denmark and the UK.



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