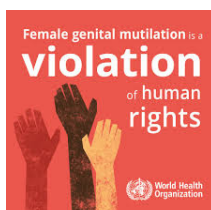
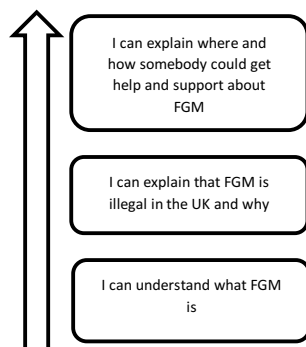


Lesson Five – Today I will learn about FGM



S4S:

- Decision making
- Developing and maintaining a healthy self-concept
- Identifying and accessing help and support

DO NOW: Ground Rules recap

- Have respect for who people are and what they say.
- Listen when anyone is talking.
- Try to use the correct words for naming body parts and sexual activities.
- No personal questions.
- Don't name names: if you want to ask about or share a personal story or experience, you can speak in the third person about 'someone I know', 'a friend', 'a situation I've heard about/read about'.
- The 'right to pass', or not say anything if someone doesn't want to.
- Confidentiality: suggest that 'what is said in the room, stays in the room' and is not for discussion outside the lesson.

Today we will be learning about a sensitive issue: **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

This is an important topic to learn about as it can harm to young people, where they can be put in dangerous situations.

Remind yourself of our PSHE ground rules before we start...

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - Female genital mutilation comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It has no health benefits and harms girls and women in many ways - from the World Health Organization, 2011

Female Genitalia - The genital organs of the female. The female external genitalia comprise the pudendum, the clitoris, and the female urethra. The female internal genitalia comprise the ovaries, the Fallopian tubes, the uterus (womb), the cervix, and the vagina. It is parts of the external genitalia that is removed during FGM.

Circumcision - Circumcision is the surgical removal of the skin covering the tip of the penis. The procedure is fairly common for new-born boys in certain parts of the world, including the United States. FGM is sometimes referred to as "female circumcision", but this does not account for the dangers around the practice.

Today we will learn about why this medical procedure is dangerous, why it is illegal, how to spot signs of concern and what can be done to help.



Reading task – Case study: Desert flower

TASK:

Read through the extract in your booklet from a true story about a young woman called Waris

The practice of FGM was and is common in a number of countries across the world, and in communities of a range of different faiths. It is also most common with young girls in infancy to the age of 15.

- What was Waris going to have done?
- What is female circumcision?
- Why do you think Waris was so keen to be circumcised?

The time had come for my oldest sister Aman, to be circumcised. Like all younger siblings, I was envious, jealous that she was entering this grown-up world that was still closed to me. Aman was a teenager, much older than the normal age for circumcision, but so far, the timing had never been right. As my family travelled Africa in an endless cycle, we had somehow missed the gypsy woman who performed this ancient ritual. My father was growing concerned, because Aman was reaching marriageable age, but no marriage could take place unless she had been properly 'fixed'. The prevailing wisdom in my country is that there are bad things between a girl's legs, parts of our bodies that we are born with but yet are 'unclean'. These things must be removed – the clitoris, labia minora, and most of the labia majora are cut off, then the wound stitched shut, leaving only a scar where the genitals had been. But the actual details of the ritual cutting are left a mystery – it's never explained to the girls. You just know that something special is going to happen to you when your time comes. As a result, all young girls in my country anxiously await the ceremony that will make their transformation from being a little girl to becoming a woman. Originally the process occurred when the girls reach puberty, and the ritual had some meaning, as the girl became fertile and capable of bearing her own children. But through time, female circumcision has been performed on younger and younger girls, partially due to the pressure from the girls themselves, since they eagerly await their 'special time' as a child in the West might await her birthday party. When I heard that the old gypsy was coming to circumcise Aman, I wanted to be circumcised too. The day before the event, I begged my mother, tugging at her arm, 'Mama, do us both together. Come on Mama, do both of us tomorrow.'

What are the health risks of FGM?

- loss of blood
- pain or shock
- difficulties in passing urine
- difficulties during menstruation
- infections
- increased risk of HIV infection
- complications in pregnancy and childbirth
- problems during sex
- psychological difficulties/problems

Not all girls or women who have undergone FGM experience health problems, in particular women who have had one of the less severe types of FGM.

FGM is illegal in this country but in other countries it is performed legally, or people turn a blind eye to what is going on. The procedures can be unhygienic and dangerous, as for Aman in the desert, who was circumcised by an old woman with a rusty razor blade.

Girls with more affluent families can be circumcised in a more hygienic medical setting, which reduces the risk of infection but still creates problems with the normal functioning of urination, having periods and having a baby.

It is performed in 28 African countries and in parts of the Middle East and Asia. Every year about three million girls are at risk of FGM in Africa alone. It can take place when the girl is a baby, during childhood, at puberty or at the time of a girl's marriage.

What is the origin of FGM?

- Nobody knows the real origin of FGM.
- It pre-dates Christianity and Islam. It may have begun in the time of the Pharaohs in Egypt and it was performed on some women in England before the 19th century as a way of stopping them having sex outside marriage.
- It can be done to prevent women from being unfaithful and/or enjoying sex

What has religion got to do with it?

- Nothing!
- Although FGM is practised by some Muslims and Christians in some parts of the world and many people believe it has a religious basis it is not required by Islam, Christianity or Judaism and is not in the Bible or Qur'an.
- Although Judaism considers circumcision essential to males, it does not require it for females.

RETRIEVAL: KNOWLEGDE CHECK

1. Give two changes that happens during puberty for both boys and girls

2. What is FGM?

3. Give two examples of health risks around FGM

Think again: Short film

TASK:

You are going to watch a film about a young girl in this country who knows that her family want to take her back to their country of origin to be circumcised.

Note down the arguments that seem to support the procedure and the arguments against.

For	Against

Myth of Fact?

- If not cut, the clitoris will continue to grow.
 - The clitoris stops growing after puberty.
 - The clitoris will harm the baby during delivery.
 - FGM may cause serious complications at childbirth.
- Without FGM the woman will be infertile.
- FGM can cause infertility.
 - Without FGM, the woman will smell.
 - FGM will not make the vagina more hygienic, in fact it can make it less hygienic.
 - The clitoris will harm her husband during intercourse.
 - The clitoris gives the woman pleasure and does not harm her partner.

Case study: Desert flower Pt 2

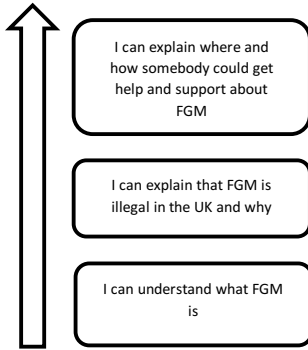
TASK:

Read through the 2nd part of the story.

In your booklets, note down your reflections on what Waris was saying e.g. What do you think about her own conclusions about her experiences?

In spite of my anger over what has been done to me, I don't blame my parents. I love my mother and father. My mother had no say-so in my circumcision, because as a woman she is powerless to make decisions. She was simply doing to me what had been done to her, and what had been done to her mother and her mother's mother. And my father was completely ignorant of the suffering he was inflicting on me. He knew that in our society, if he wanted his daughter to marry, she must be circumcised or no man would have her. My parents were both victims of their upbringing and cultural practices that have continued unchanged for thousands of years. But just as we know today that we can avoid disease and death by vaccinations, we know that women are not animals in heat, and their loyalty has to be earned with trust and affection rather than barbaric rituals. The time has come to leave the old ways and suffering behind. I feel that God made my body perfect the way I was born. Then man robbed me, took away my power and left me a cripple. My womanhood was stolen. If God had wanted those body parts missing, why did he create them? I just pray that one day no woman will have to experience this pain. It will become a thing of the past and the world will be safe for all women. What a happy day that will be, and that's what I'm working towards. God-willing, it will happen. From Desert Flower: The Extraordinary Life of a Desert Nomad by Waris Dirie

What have you learned in this week's sessions?



Annotate the steps to success and explain how you know you have achieved each one

Finally, it's time to reflect on the progress you have made throughout this unit. Go back to the diagram you attempted in lesson two. In a different colour, add down as much new knowledge as possible.