

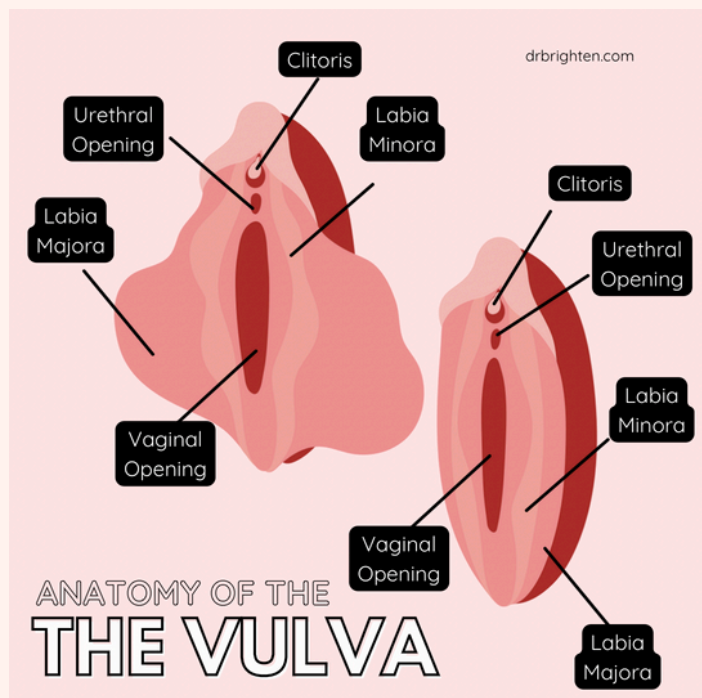
# Feminine genital mutilations

## DEFINITION

The term female genital mutilation (FGM) covers "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs that are performed for non-medical reasons" (World Health Organisation).

There are different types of FGM :

- **Clitoridectomy:** partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or prepuce
- **Excision:** partial or total removal of the clitoris and labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora
- **Infibulation or narrowing of the vaginal orifice with covering** by removal and approximation of the labia minora and/or the labia majora, with or without excision of the clitoris
- **All other harmful procedures performed on the female genital organs for non-therapeutic purposes.**



## KEY FIGURES

200  
millions

An estimated 230 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to FGM. According to UNFPA estimates, a further 68 million are likely to fall victim to this practice before 2030.

31

Female genital mutilation is still practised in 31 countries around the world.

124  
355

In France, the number of women and girls affected by FGM is estimated at 124,355 (2019).

12-21%

It is estimated that 12% to 21% of girls aged 0 to 18, born in their country of origin or in France to families from countries where FGM is practised, are at risk of falling victim to it.

## ISSUES



In France, the term "mutilation sexuelle féminine" (female sexual mutilation) is used to emphasise the damage to sexuality and the consequences for the sexuality of girls and women. Other countries use the term "female genital mutilation".



**FGM has serious consequences for the girls and women who are victims: physical** (pain, problems with healing, bleeding, infections, etc.), **sexual** (painful intercourse, impact on pleasure, etc.) **and mental** (shock, anxiety, problems with self-esteem, etc.).



**The use of FGM is often justified by a desire to control the sexuality of young girls and women:** some believe that excising girls reduces their sexual desire and prevents them from having sexual relations before marriage, or extra-marital relations when they are married.



**French law punishes the perpetrators of FGM, even when it is committed abroad: FGM is a crime. However, many girls, including those living in France, are still victims of FGM:** it is therefore vital to support victims.

## RESOURCES



The association Excision Parlons-En offers resources for professionals, people at risk and those affected by FGM: <https://www.excisionparlonsen.org>.



The Fédération nationale GAMS provides information and guidance to victims and people at risk of MSF, and offers technical support to professionals: <https://federationgams.org/>



The government's "Arrêtons les violences" website offers specific resources on female genital mutilation: <https://arretonslesviolences.gouv.fr/besoin-d-aide/mutilations-sexuelles-feminines>

**Our training courses to take you further (in French only) :**

- Gender-based and sexual violence
- Specific forms of violence in a migratory context
- Sexual and reproductive health of foreign women