



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Awareness - Summer 2022

Here we are again, its Summer 2022!

We are here to raise your awareness around the risk of FGM during the summer holiday, which is a high prevalence period for the practice of FGM.

Coincidentally, during the period of 29th July and the 7th of August 2022, Dr Syedna Mufaddal Salfuddin, Head priest of the Dawoodi Bohra faith, visits London to perform the Moharam Sermons.

Concern has been shared that this event will heighten the risk of children being subjected to FGM, also the arrival falls during the school holiday period which is already known to increase the risk of FGM among children from affected communities.

In 2015 after the enactment of the Serious Crime Act 2015, the Syedna's office issued a letter to the UK followers informing them not to perform FGM on children and abide by the law. However, FGM activists and insiders have informed that this was just a cover up, and that FGM is encouraged by him and many country leads, and communities are expected to practice it. Further evidence was provided in 2016, when the head priest in a public sermon, encouraged FGM known as 'Khatna' on children. The Dawoodi Bohra community mainly practice Type 1 and Type 4 (ritual prick).

We are making you aware of the above, as in our region there is a Dawoodi Bohra population and we have the responsibility to safeguard children and young girls by providing the correct information during this summer period.

In Greater Manchester and the surrounding areas, NESTAC offers advice and support for anyone who wishes to learn more.

You can contact NESTAC and The Guardian Project for support around the risks of FGM.

NESTAC - nestac.org.uk

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