

Nationellt centrum mot hedersrelaterat våld och förtryck

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To decide
over your own body
is a human right!

What is female genital mutilation?

Female genital mutilation of girls and women involves removing or injuring parts of the external female genitals. It can occur anywhere in the world. It is most common in some countries in Africa and the Middle East.

There are different types of female genital mutilation and it is not linked to a particular religion or culture. Female genital mutilation can have serious physical and psychological consequences for the person who has been subjected to this procedure.

Do you need treatment or support?

Contact your local social services, youth clinic, health centre or gynaecology clinic if you need treatment, support or help. There are two specialist hospital clinics in Sweden that offer treatment for those who have experienced female genital mutilation: Amelmottagningen at Södersjukhuset in Stockholm and Vulvamottagningen at Angereds närsjukhus in Gothenburg. However, you can always get treatment and support, wherever you live in Sweden.

If you are at school, you can turn to the school counselor or the school nurse. The police can also help if you or someone else may have been the victim of a crime or may be at risk of such.

For parents and close relatives

As a parent, you have a duty to protect your daughter from all forms of female genital mutilation. As a close relative, you have an important role in ensuring that no girl in your family circle is subjected to female genital mutilation.

Are you concerned that someone you know is about to be subjected to female genital mutilation? Contact social services in your local municipality (you can remain anonymous if you wish) or call the police on 114 14. In an emergency, you should call 112.

What does the law say?

According to Swedish law, it is a serious crime to subject someone to female genital mutilation. Attempting, preparing for or trying to get someone else to perform female genital mutilation is also a crime. In addition, not reporting or preventing the occurrence of female genital mutilation is a criminal offence. Even if the crime is committed in another country, a person can still be charged with the crime in Sweden.

In Sweden, anyone who breaks the law banning female genital mutilation could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

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