

Who We Are

BAWSO was established in 1995 as an 'All Wales' voluntary organization providing specialist services for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BME) women and children who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing domestic violence. Its work extends to providing support for women confronted with Forced Marriage, threatened Honour killing, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Trafficking.

The FGM Health & Safeguarding project supports BME women and girls who have undergone or who are at risk of undergoing Female Genital Mutilation.

It involves reaching out to communities who are most inclined to practice FGM and hard to reach. It aims to:

- Empower women in practicing communities to be proactive in raising awareness of the detrimental impact FGM has on lives of those who have undergone it.
- Provide information and signposting referrals to other relevant services.
- Promote healthier and more active women and girls.

We are aware that FGM still takes place within the community and know that the trauma, stigma, myth and prejudice associated with it prevent access to treatment and care services.

Why People Practice FGM

Some of the reasons given for the upholding the practice of FGM include:

- Protecting family honour
- Preserving tradition
- Ensuring a woman's chastity
- Preparation for marriage

Whilst FGM is often considered by practicing communities as an act of love, rather than cruelty, it does cause significant harm and constitutes physical and emotional abuse.

FGM is a Form of Child Abuse in the UK

We offer a confidential service to women and girls, who have or who are at risk undergoing Female Genital Mutilation.

Services Offered:

- Information and advice on FGM
- Support in accessing health and social care
- Support in identifying local support groups and networks
- Liaising with schools and health professionals
- Support with accessing counseling services
- Support groups/ Self help groups
- Community events
- Language support
- Access to Capacity Building Training

How can I be referred?

We operate an Open Door policy. You can drop in at any time during working hours or give us a call if you have concerns. Referrals can be made by contacting us directly, by means of self referral, by friends, family or any other professional Supporting agency.

We are open 9.30 am - 4.30 pm Monday to Friday. In an emergency you can call our 24 hour helpline on 0800 731 8147

Together we can end Female Genital Mutilation...



Don't suffer in silence, it is important that you gain access to the appropriate services.