

### **Fact sheet 03: Statement Opposing Female Genital Mutilation**

In 2012 the Government published a 'Statement Opposing Female Genital Mutilation' leaflet, commonly referred to as the "Health Passport". This pocket-sized document sets out the law and the potential criminal penalties that can be used against those allowing FGM to take place.

It is designed to be discreetly carried in a purse, wallet or passport. It can be used by families who have immigrated to the UK and do not want their children to be subjected to FGM, but still feel compelled by cultural and social norms when visiting family abroad.

It has been supported and signed by Ministers from the Home Office, Department of Health, Ministry of Justice, Department for Education and the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

Organisations should consider routinely offering this leaflet to patients when discussing FGM.

From June 2015 copies can be obtained from the Department of Health orderline: [www.orderline.dh.gov.uk](http://www.orderline.dh.gov.uk). Until then, copies can be requested from the Home Office by emailing [FGMEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FGMEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

#### **Additional resources**

Information about the government's strategy to eradicate violence against women and girls can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/policies/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-uk](http://www.gov.uk/government/policies/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-the-uk)

To view some examples of effective practice in tackling FGM, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>