IN ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Female genital cutting is a global issue. Whilst it takes place in 27 countries across Africa, girls and women in parts of Asia and The Middle East are also subjected to the practice. It is a taboo and under-researched issue, but has been shown to exist in the countries highlighted below.

IRAQ

FGC is legal in Iraq where 8% of girls and women have been cut. In Iraqi Kurdistan, where FGC has been criminalised since 2011, it is estimated that 12% of women have been cut; in certain regions it is as high as 58%.

IRAN FGC is legal in Iran where small studies in regions bordering Iraq and in the South found 40-85% of women have been cut. In 2009, high ranking clericsissued Fatwas banning FGC.

JORDAN

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

YEMEN

19% of women and girls have undergone FGC, 85% of girls are cut within their first week of life. No law currently prohibits FGC but a 2001 ministerial decree prohibited the practice in government and private health facilities.

> Indicates a place where FGC has been shown to occur



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SAUDI ARABIA

OMAN

A small study found that 78% of women were cut. There is a high rate of approval of FGC from bothsexes. Anecdotally, FGC appears to be common in the North and South.

Drivers that perpetuate FGC include tradition, culture, social pressure and religion. Although FGC pre-dats Islam, is not mentioned in the Qur'an and is not practised by the majority of Muslims worldwide, FGC is often believed to be an Islmic imperative in some places.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

FGC is legal in both countries and happens amongst the Dawoodi Bohra. Sahiyo, an organisation empowering Dawoodi Bohra to end FGC, conducted an online survey amongst Dawoodi Bohra globally. Preliminary results indicate that 80% of the women who took the survey had undergone FGC (known as khatna).

THAILAND

SINGAPORE

SRI LANKA

MALDIVES



Medicalisation is a growing problem; Indonesia and Malaysia have called for a 'standardisation' of the procedure, legitimising the practice.



52 Islamic Scholars attended a conference in Cairo in 2006, culminating in a fatwa being issued against FGC by Ali Gomaa, Grand Mufti of Egypt.

Very little data exists on the extent of the practice outside of Africa; national prevalence statistics only exist for Iraq and Yemen.

MALAYSIA

BRUNEL

One small study of Malay Muslims in five rural villages in north Malaysia found 93.5% of women had undergone FGC. The Ministry of Health called for a need to standardise theprocedure, contradicting its own ban on doctors performing FGC.



49% of girls aged 0 to 11 years have undergone FGC, 77% were less than 6 months old. More than half of girls underwent the procedure by a trained medical professional. The Ulema Council issued a fatwa in 2008 stating that FGC should be provided by medical professionals if requested. In 2010 The Ministry of Health released guidelines on how to cut, encouraging medicalisation. Despite an official revoke of the regulation in 2014, these are no sanctions for those conducting the practice.