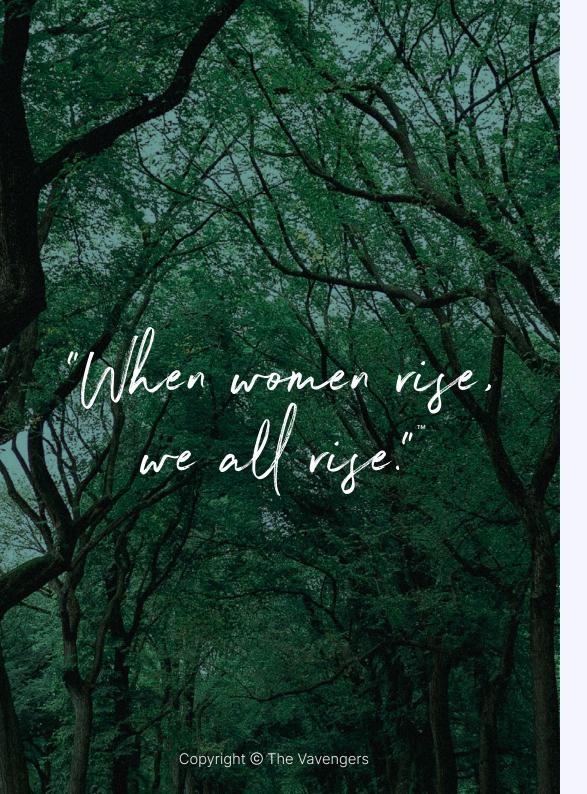
THE VAVENGERS®





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The Vavengers' pop-up support and wellness Hubs for Women and Girls™

What is a hub?

The Vavengers® pop-up support hubs are safe and spaces open to all women affected by or at risk of GBV. The sessions run once a month, on selected days at different pop-up locations across London. They include a well-being session, an educational session, and free supplies for participants. The sessions are run by survivors, campaigners and healthcare and wellness experts, who are trained and ready to provide support and guidance for whomever may need it.

To book your free place at a pop-up hub please visit our website: www.thevavengers.co.uk/services

Who are The Vavengers?

The Vavengers is a UK-based charity that is led by and supports survivors of FGM/C and all other forms of GBV. FGM/C isn't just a singular event; it is part of a greater cycle of oppression with devastating, lifelong physical and psychological consequences. We understand that the communities we work with often experience multiple disadvantages so, our work seeks to stop all forms of VAWG.

Ending GBV and supporting those affected requires the energy of everybody, regardless of location and gender.



Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls.

GBV refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender (U.N.). It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power, and harmful norms. VAWG is an act of GBV against women and girls.

GBV can include: sexual, physical, mental and financial harm inflicted in public or in private. It also includes threats of violence, coercion and manipulation. This can take many forms such as intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and so-called "honour" crimes.

mothers.

queens. rulers.

women.

daughters. visionaries.

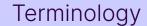


Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines FGM/C as: "All procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons" (2014).

FGM/C is a violation of the child and woman. It is child abuse and illegal in the United Kingdom (UK). It is mostly carried out by traditional circumcisers, who often play other central roles in communities such as attending childbirths.

Increasingly, however, FGM/C is being performed by health providers in many countries. Around 1 in 4 women and girls who were subjected to FGM/C, had it performed by a health personnel.



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

is an advocacy term, used in legal documents including laws e.g. The UK has "The FGM Act 2003". Some survivors view mutilation as a negtaive term.

Female Genital Cutting (FGC)

is viewed as an alternative option (used primarily by US agencies).

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)

is the inclusive compromise that many organisations, like The Vavengers, choose to use.

Female Circumcision and Sunna

are both terms widely used by communities however, they should not be encouraged because they don't reflect the reality of the violence.





TRIGGER WARNING

The following page contains images that may be disturbing to viewers

For support with anything you find difficult here, visit our website for free wellness techniques:

www.thevavengers.co.uk/wellness

The 4 main types of FGM/C



Type 1 (or Clitoridectomy)

Clitoris or clitoral hood is cut off.



Type 2 (or Intermediate)

Clitoris, inner and outer labia are removed.



Type 3 (or Infibulation)

Clitoris, inner and outer labia are removed. The remaining skin is stitched or sealed leaving a small opening.



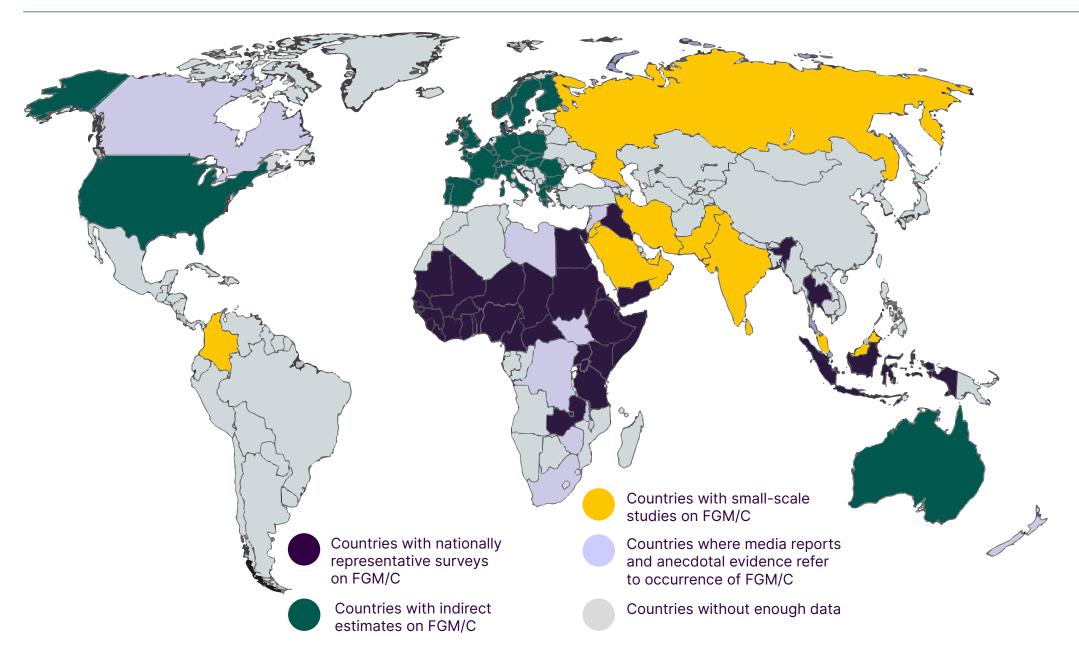
Type 4 (or other harmful procedures)

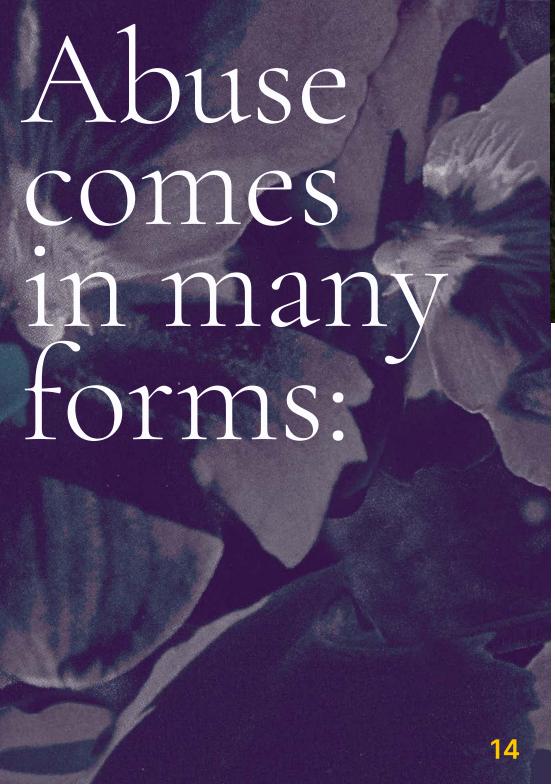
Including: piercing, pricking, stretching, scraping, burning, cutting and introducing corrosives/herbs.

FGM/C is the cutting or removal of the external female genitals. FGM/C is often performed by non-medically trained people. It results in lifelong pain, trauma, health and emotional problems.

If you or someone you know is at risk of FGM/C, please call 999 in urgent and 101 in non-urgent situations.

Alternatively, if you or someone you know is being pressured to perform FGM/C on a girl or woman, get in touch with us at info@thevavengers.co.uk. We will inform you on support systems, reporting lines and services available







X Economic abuse

Economic violence involves making or attempting to make a person financially dependent by maintaining control over financial resources, withholding access to money, and/or forbidding attendance at school or employment.

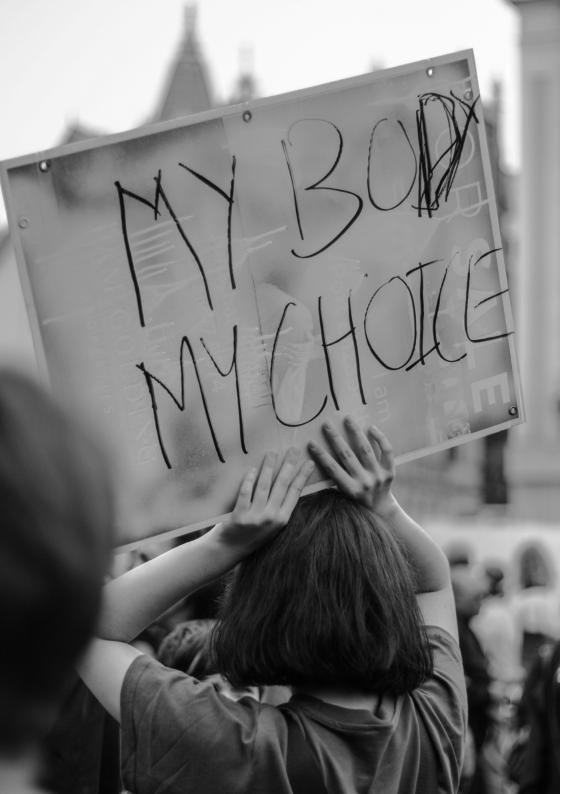


X Psychological abuse

Psychological violence involves causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self, partner or children, destruction of pets and property, "mind games", or forcing isolation from friends, family, school and/or work.

X Emotional abuse

Emotional violence includes undermining a person's sense of selfworth through constant criticism; belittling one's abilities; name-calling or other verbal abuse; damaging a partner's relationship with their children, or not letting a partner see friends and family.





X Physical abuse

Physical violence involves hurting or trying to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, burning, grabbing, pinching, shoving, slapping, hair-pulling, biting, denying medical care or, forcing alcohol and drug use, or using other physical force. It may include property damage.

X Sexual abuse

Sexual violence involves forcing a person to take part in a sex act when the person does not consent. If the person being sexually abused was quiet throughout the attack, it still counts as abuse - as it's against one's consent.

See more about sexual violence and consent on the following pages.

Sexual violence

Sexual violence is any sexual act committed against the will of another person, either when this person does not give consent or when consent cannot be given because the person is a child, has a mental disability, or is severely intoxicated or unconscious. Sexual violence can include the following:

Sexual harassment

encompasses non-consensual physical contact, like grabbing, pinching, slapping, or rubbing against another person in a sexual way. It also includes non-physical forms, such as catcalls, sexual comments about a person's body or appearance, demands for sexual favors, intrusive staring of a sexual nature, stalking, and exposing one's sex organs.

Sexual assault

is an act of physical, psychological and emotional violation in the form of a sexual act, inflicted on someone without their consent. It can involve forcing or manipulating someone to witness or participate in any sexual acts.

Rape

is any non-consensual vaginal, anal or oral penetration of another person with any bodily part or object. This can be by any person known or unknown to the survivor, within marriage and relationships, and during armed conflict.

"Corrective" rape

is a form of rape of perpetrated against someone on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It is intended to force the victim to conform to heterosexuality or normative gender identity.

Rape culture

is the social environment that allows sexual violence to be normalized and justified. It is rooted in patriarchy and fueled by persistent gender inequalities, and biases about gender and sexuality.



Online or digital violence against women and girls refers to any act of violence that is committed, assisted or aggravated by the use of information and communication technology (mobile phones, the Internet, social media, computer games, text messaging, email, etc) against a woman or girl based on their gender.

Online violence can include the following:

Cyberbullying involves the sending of intimidating or threatening messages.

Non-consensual sexting involves the sending of explicit messages or photos without the recipient's consent.

Doxing

involves the public release of private or identifying information about the victim.



Forced marriage

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage, as they are pressurised or abuse is used to force them to do so. It is recognised in the UK as a form of domestic or child abuse and a serious violation of human rights.

X

Legislation on forced marriage

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 made it a criminal offence in England, Wales and Scotland to force someone to marry. (It is a criminal offence in Northern Ireland under separate legislation).

This includes:

- taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place)
- marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they are pressured to or not)

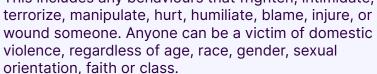
Forcing someone to marry can result in a sentence of up to 7 years in prison. It is also possible for victims or those at risk to apply for a Forced Marriage Protection Order (FMPO). As a civil law measure, an application for an FMPO would be made in the family court. Any marriage where one or both people are under the age of 18 is a forced marriage under UK law.

Scan for more information on forced marriage and your rights in the UK:



Child marriage

Child marriage refers to any marriage where one or both spouses are below the age of 18. It is a violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that "marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses." Girls are more likely to be child brides, and consequently drop out of school and experience other forms of violence.



onemation, faith of class.

Domestic abuse includes: Physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, financial and economic.



"Honour"-based

Otherwise know as oppression-based, "honour"-based violence is a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of a family or community.

If your family or community think you've shamed or embarrassed them by behaving in a certain way, they may punish you for breaking their 'honour' code.

People who carry out "honour"-based violence are often close family members but they may also be extended family or community members.

Consent

No means No. Yes means Yes. Consent is an agreement between participants to engage in sexual activity or enter into marriage. It must be freely and actively given and cannot be provided by someone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol or by someone under-age. Silence does not count as consent.

Consent is specific, meaning that consent to one act does not imply consent to any others, and it's reversible, meaning that it may be revoked at any time.



Stalking or harassment

Stalking and harassment is when someone repeatedly behaves in a way that makes you feel scared, distressed or threatened. There are different types of stalking and harassment, and anyone can be a victim.

Stalking and harassment are offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

Harassment may include:

- bullying at school or in the workplace
- cyber stalking or harrasment (using the internet to harass someone)
- antisocial behaviour
- sending abusive text messages
- sending unwanted gifts
- unwanted phone calls, letters, emails or visits

Sexual harrasment is another, serious form of abuse. Some examples would include:

- sexual comments, jokes or gestures
- staring or leering at someone's body
- using names like 'slut' or 'whore'
- unwanted sexual communications, like emails, texts, DMs
- sharing sexual photos or videos
- groping and touching
- someone exposing themselves
- pressuring someone do sexual things or offering something in exchange for sex

If you've experienced any of these, it is not your fault and you do not have to put up with it.

You can report it to the police. Call 999 if you or someone else is in immediate danger. Contact your local police if it's not an emergency.

If you don't feel ready to contact the police yet, you can report anonymously to **Crimestoppers**.



Human trafficking and modern slavery

Human trafficking is the acquisition and exploitation of people, through means such as force, fraud, coercion, or deception. This heinous crime ensnares millions of women and girls worldwide, many of whom are sexually exploited.

Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. It covers a wide range of abuse and exploitation including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting.

Resources and support In an emergency, call 999

Contraception options

CONDOMS

External and Internal

Reasonably effective: best when used perfectly

- No hormones
- Remember before sex
- Periods won't change
- ✓ Protection from STI's



INJECTION

Effective:

best when used perfectly

- Hormones
- Fit and forget
- Periods may be lighter or stop
- × No protection from STI's

PILLS

Combined pill (COC)

Effective:

best when used perfectly

- Hormones
- Remember regularly
- Periods regular and lighter
- × No protection from STI's

COILS

IUD (Intrauterine device)

Very effective:

- No hormones
- Fit and forget
- Periods sometimes

Progestogen-only pill (POP)

★★★★☆

Effective:

best when used perfectly



- Remember regularly
- Periods may be lighter or stop
- × No protection from STI's

no need to remember it!

- get heavier
- × No protection from STI's

IUS (Intrauterine system)

Very effective: no need to remember it!

- Hormones
- Fit and forget
- Periods may be lighter or stop
- × No protection from STI's

Speak to your doctor, midwife or sexual health nurse about finding an option that suits you.

Source: www.sexwise.org.uk

☆☆☆☆ = Effectiveness when use correctly

FERTILITY AWARENESS

Reasonably effective: best when used perfectly

- No hormones
- Remember regularly
- Periods won't change
- × No protection from STI's

STERILISATION

Very effective:

IMPLANT

Very effective: no need to remember it!

- Hormones
- Fit and forget
- Periods may be lighter or stop
- × No protection from STI's



VAGINAL RING

Effective: best when used perfectly

- Hormones
- Remember regularly
- Periods regular and lighter
- × No protection from STI's



PATCH

★★★☆

Effective:

best when used perfectly

A permanent method of

contraception, for people who

don't want more or any children.

- Hormones
- Remember regularly
- Periods regular and lighter
- × No protection from STI's

DIAPHRAGMS AND CAPS

Reasonably effective: best when used perfectly

- No hormones
- Remember before sex
- Periods won't change
- × No protection from STI's



Mental health

Samaritans

If you need someone to talk to, we listen. We won't judge or tell you what to do.

www.samaritans.org

24hr helpline:

**** 116123

∑ jo@samaritans.org

Support Services

Charities working to end domestic abuse and violence against women and children. Contact the police on 999 if you think that a girl or woman is in immediate danger of FGM/C.

Refuge and Women's Aid

refuge.org.uk womensaid.org.uk

24hr helpline:

**** 0808 2000 247

Solace

solacewomensaid.org

Open Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm Tues 6pm - 8pm:

**** 0808 802 5565

Women and Girls Network

wgn.org.uk
Open Monday-Friday 10

Open Monday-Friday 10am-4pm and late evening Wednesday 6pm-9pm

**** 0808 801 0660

FGM/C

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office if the girl or woman at risk has already been taken abroad.

**** 020 7008 1500

FGM/C Helpline (NSPCC)

Project Azure

**** 0800 028 3550

Home Office FGM/C Unit

The Home Office co-ordinates efforts across government and offers outreach support to local areas.

gov.uk/government/collections/female-genitalmutilation

FORWARD

Tackling FGM/C, child marriage, domestic and sexual violence, and discrimination.

forwarduk.org.uk

Open Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 5:30pm

**** 07834 168 141

WHFS

Women's Health & Family Services

whfs.org.uk

**** 020 7377 8725

FGM/C clinics - Gynaecological services

National FGM/C Support Clinics that offer support services for women (18+) with Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting. Their all-female team provide physical assessment and treatment, emotions support and counselling, general information, access to FGM/C Health Advocates and a special consultant if needed.

Sylvia Pankhurst (Primrose Clinic)

Open Monday-Thursday: 12pm to 8pm,

Friday: 9.30am to 5.30pm:

**** 02073777898

P E1 4DG

Chingway Medical Centre (The WAHA Clinic)

Open Friday (every 2 weeks), walk-in service

**** 02084307020

PE48YD

Christine Benson

Open Monday-Thursday

**** 02072532288

PEC1Y 8RT

SMS Medical Practice (Hibiscus Clinic)

Open Tuesday 10-6 (every Tuesday), walk-in service

↑ HAO 4UZ

Edridge Practice (Calabash Clinic)

Open Monday (every 2 weeks)

CR0 1FE

Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital (The Sunflower Clinic)

Open Fridays from 9am to 5pm

**** 07730970738

W12 0HS

African Women's Clinic

**** 02034475241

WC1E 6DB

African Well Woman's Clinic

whittington.nhs.uk/default.asp?c=20021

**** 020 7288 3482

joy.clarke@nhs.net

N19 5NF

Psychological Support

The Dahlia Project

We want to achieve an end to FGM/C by creating safe spaces to support individuals and societies affected by FGM/C, protect children from harm and empower communities to lead change.

dahliaproject.org dahlia@manorgardenscentre.org

Safe Spaces for Black Women

A safe space for Black women affected by COVID-19, the current political system, racism, patriarchy and mental health, where Black women can express and explore their experience in the world through virtual meet-ups with a qualified therapist providing support.

safespacesforblackwomen.com/info@safespacesforblackwomen.com

LGBTQ+ support

Galop

For LGBT+ people who have or are experiencing domestic abuse. We are also here for people supporting a survivor of domestic abuse; friends, families and those working with a survivor.

galop.org.uk

Open Monday to Friday 10am – 5pm, Wednesday and Thursday 10am – 8:00pm

**** 0800 999 5428

help@galop.org.uk

Terrence Higgings Trust

Since 1982 we've been supporting people impacted by HIV and poor sexual health.

htt.org.uk

Open Monday to Friday, 10:00 - 18:00, Saturday to Sunday, 10:00 - 13:00

**** 0808 802 1221

☑ info@tht.org.uk.

Forced Marriage

Forced Marriage Unit

How to protect, advise and support victims of forced marriage – information and practice guidelines for professionals.

pov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage
Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

**** 020 7008 0151

"Honour"-based abuse

Karma Nirvana

Working to end so-called honour based abuse in the UK

karmanirvana.org.ukOpen Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

**** 0800 5999 247

■ support@karmanirvana.org.uk

Rape

Rape Crisis

Charity working to end sexual violence and abuse

rapecrisis.org.uk

Open Monday - Thursday: 1pm - 5pm, 6pm - 9pm, Friday: 2pm - 5pm

**** 0808 802 9999

□ rcewinfo@rapecrisis.org.uk

Legal Support

Rights of Women

Legal advice to help women through the law (information on domestic violence, child contact, sexual violence, the criminal justice process, immigration and asylum)

rightsofwomen.org.uk

☑ info@row.org.uk

Affordable Justice

A women-run law firm that specialises in the provision of legal advice, assistance, and representation exclusively to women

haffordablejustice.co.uk

**** 01482 711003

Stalking and Harassment

National Stalking Helpline

Our mission is to reduce the risk of violence and aggression through campaigning, education and support

suzylamplugh.org

Open Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 4pm (except Wednesday 9:30am to 8pm)

**** 0808 802 0300

Sexual Health

Sexwise

Here to give you honest advice about contraception, pregnancy, STIs and pleasure.

sexwise.org.uk
 Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm, Saturday
 and Sunday, 11am to 4pm
 0300 123 7123

Children

Childline

Here to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through.

childline.org.uk

Open 24hr

**** 0800 1111

Employability

Young Women's Trust

A feminist organisation working to achieve economic justice for young women: get free coaching and job application feedback with our Work It Out service.

youngwomenstrust.org

**** 020 7837 2019

Perpertrators

Respect Phoneline

A confidential helpline, email and webchat service for domestic abuse perpetrators and those supporting them.

respectphoneline.org.uk

Open Monday-Thursday 10am-8pm, and Friday 10am-5pm

**** 0808 8024040

info@respectphoneline.org.uk

Sources

Consent Sexual Violence Human trafficking and modern slavery Child marriage Online or digital violence

www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/faqs/types-of-violence

Oppression-based abuse

www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/honour-based-abuse/honour-based-abuse

Other

www.gov.uk



The Vavengers' services

We are a survivor-led organisation, standing with and for every woman affected by Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) – we will help end it together.

We will try to support you with anything you need, whether that means through our own services or connecting you to others in our network.

Our work takes 3 forms:



Community outreach hubs in the UK that support vulnerable woman's physical, psychological, and legal needs with a focus on FGM/C and VAWG.



Educational workshops about FGM/C and VAWG with businesses and organisations, including healthcare professionals.



National and international campaigns to ensure FGM/C and VAWG is on the political and social agenda.

Get in touch

www.thevavengers.co.uk info@thevavengers.co.uk



@thevavengers



To find a support hub near you scan the QR code, or visit: www.thevavengers.co.uk/services

Hoda Ali, Co-founder of The Vavengers

"ONCE I HAD THE knowledge ABOUT FGM/C, IT WAS LIKE **GETTING** my body BACK."

