

# ISLAMIC FACT SHEET 3

## Islam's Justification for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Islamic women are considered as little more than the property and slaves to men and are thereby subjected to female circumcision with the accompanying health risks including death, because of the often crude surgical procedure(s) used.

The mutilation of women's genitalia is practiced in 4 forms:

*Type 1 or Clitoridectomy: Partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or the clitoral hood. Type 2 or Excision: Partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora. Type 3 or Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal orifice with creation of a covering seal by cutting and placing together the labia minora and/or the labia majora, with or without excision of the clitoris. Type 4 or Unclassified: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for nonmedical purposes, for example, pricking, piercing, incising, scraping, and cauterization. Health risks such as severe pain, hemorrhage, tetanus, infection, infertility, cysts and abscesses, urinary incontinence, and psychological and sexual problems.* <http://www.prb.org/pdf14/fgm-wallchart2014.pdf>

*More than half a million women and girls in the U.S. are at risk of undergoing FGM or have already undergone the procedure, including 166,173 under the age of 18, according to the [Population Reference Bureau](#) (PRB). The last large-scale study of FGM in the U. S. was released by the African Women's Health Center at Brigham and Women's Hospital in 2004, and found more than 227,000 American women were at risk of or had already undergone FGM.*

*Globally, around 130 million women and girls are living with the effects from FGM and around 3 million undergo the procedure annually, according to the [United Nations Population Fund](#) (UNFPA). The practice, known to be performed in 29 countries and usually at the hands of midwives or physicians, involves cutting the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. Newsweek, Luchh Westcott 2/6/15 <http://www.newsweek.com/fgm-rates-have-doubled-us-2004-304773>*

*The leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham [Syria] has asked all families around Iraq's northern city of Mosul to **circumcise their daughters or face severe punishment**. (emphasis added)* <http://aina.org/news/20150126163521.htm>

### **Hadith quotes Mandating Mutilation of Women's Genitalia**

**Sunan Abu Dawud 61** The most often cited narration reports a conversation between Muhammad and Um Habibah a woman known as an exciser of female slaves. Having seen her, Muhammad asked if she kept practicing her profession (now that she was a Muslim). She answered affirmatively, adding; "unless it is forbidden and you order me to stop doing it." Muhammad replied: "Yes, it is allowed. Come closer so I can teach you: if you cut, do not overdo it because it brings more radiance to the face and it is more pleasant for the husband." Mishkat al-Masabih, English Translation, Book I, Section 'Duties of husband and wife.'

**Hadith 722 :** *Yusuf al-Qaradawi, considered the Muslim Brotherhood's spiritual and ideological leader, issued a fatwa asserting that "circumcision is better for a woman's health and it enhances her conjugal relation with her husband" and that, "whoever finds it serving the interest of his daughters should do it, and I personally support this under the current circumstances in the modern world."*

<http://www.clarionproject.org/news/us-gov-covers-islamic-female-genital-mutilation>

The late rector of Al-Azhar University, Sheikh Gad al-Haq, said that *since the Prophet did not ban female circumcision, it was permissible and, at the very least, could not be banned.* (Emphasis added)

<http://www.meforum.org/1629/is-female-genital-mutilation-an-islamic-problem>

### **ISLAMIC SCHOLARS on The Hadith & Female Genital Mutilation**

Al-Juwayni said: *"The Hadith indicates that not too much of it should be removed (in the case of women), because, he said, "Leave something sticking out and do not go to extremes in cutting."*

*Tuhfat al-Mawdood, 190-192 The point is that in the case of males, all the skin covering the tip of the penis should be cut, but in the case of females only a part of the skin that is like a rooster's comb at the top of the vagina should be cut.* <http://islamqa.info/en/9412>

Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah : *"Yes, they should be circumcised," i.e., the top of the piece of skin that looks like a rooster's comb should be cut. The Messenger of Allah said to the woman who did circumcisions: "Leave something sticking out and do not go to extremes in cutting. That makes her face look brighter and is more pleasing to her husband."*

Sitt al-Banaat Khaalid, a female gynecologist, says in an article entitled *Khitaan al-Banaat Ru'yah Sihhiyyah, For us in the Muslim world female circumcision is, above all else, obedience to Islam, which means acting in accordance with the fitrah and following the Sunnah which encourages it.* <http://islamqa.info/en/45528>

*Circumcision is obligatory (for every male and female) by cutting off the piece of skin on the glans of the penis of the male, but circumcision of the female is by cutting out the clitoris (this is called HufaaD).* {emphasis added}

*The deceptive translation by Nuh Hah Mim Keller, made for Western consumption, obscures the Shafi'i law, given by 'Umdat al-Salik\*\*, that circumcision of girls by excision of the clitoris is mandatory. This particular form of female circumcision is widely practiced in Egypt, where the Shafi'i school of Sunni law is followed.* [http://answering-islam.org/Sharia/fem\\_circumcision.html](http://answering-islam.org/Sharia/fem_circumcision.html) (\*\* Umdat l-Salik is Islamic Sacred Law)

Note 1: For a widely accepted English translation of the Qu'ran see: [www.islam101.com/quran/yusufali](http://www.islam101.com/quran/yusufali)

Note 2: If you are interested in learning more about the history of Islam and the threat it poses to our way of life, visit our website – [www.cctaxpayers.com](http://www.cctaxpayers.com); click on the Contact tab; and ask for information on our next (free) class.