



**OxfordAgainstCutting**  
StopFemaleGenitalMutilation

“ Together we can STOP  
female genital mutilation ”

## Oxford Against Cutting Annual Review

For year ended 31st March 2018  
Charity number 1161597

# What we do

We tackle female genital mutilation (FGM) of girls and women living in Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley. We focus on ending FGM through education and supporting survivors of FGM. Young people and facilitators from FGM-affected communities, some of whom are survivors of FGM, are at the forefront of our activities.



## Schools

- 20 training sessions delivered for schools in the Thames Valley
- Sessions reached 45 schools - nursery, primary, secondary and university levels
- 390 staff members and 80 students participated in OAC training
- 2 Training evaluation reports confirm significant impact
- New package developed, Talking About FGM in the Classroom
- Toolkit created for primary school lessons

## Communities

- 8 workshops and presentations for community groups, academics and conferences
- New package developed for academic groups
- Breaking the Culture of Silence event
- Launch of primary school toolkit event

## Young People

- Active Youth Wing
- Together We Stand solidarity song

## Awareness-Raising

- Wide-spread poster campaign in Oxford to highlight support services
- Posters to highlight support services in all counties in the Thames Valley
- 2 narratives on our website





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[www.oxfordagainstcutting.org](http://www.oxfordagainstcutting.org)



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# Executive Summary

Oxford Against Cutting has a very strong reputation for delivering high quality, sensitive training. All our training is delivered by at least one facilitator from an FGM-affected community and some of our facilitators are survivors of FGM. This means our team supports learning about FGM as a reality, rather than an academic subject.

Our team has grown, with Lena el-Hindi joining our Directors Team and Leila Jabane, an anti-FGM activist and teacher, joining us as Schools Coordinator. We have made new links with representatives of the Somali communities in Oxford and Milton Keynes. We have a strong team of freelance facilitators who now represent the Gambian, Sudanese, Somali, Kenyan and Sierra Leonean communities. Kate Agha, our Executive Director, is a full time employee, coordinating the charity and assisting with delivery. We are grateful to Rosa's Woman to Woman Fund and the Garfield Weston Foundation for supporting our core activities.

The strength of our training also created new opportunities, for example, Oxford Against Cutting was the anti-FGM charity chosen by NASUWT, the Teachers' Union, to deliver workshops at their National Conference for BME teachers and their Training and Development Day for Equality Officers. Likewise, a representative of the Community Safety Team, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse

District Councils attended our schools training and then supported us to secure further funding.

We are delighted to have created a toolkit for primary school teachers to talk about sexual harm, body rights and safety with young children. The Oxford anti-FGM School Health Nurse Lead has confirmed that our film, Who Can You Tell? will be included in puberty lessons for year 5 and 6 students across Oxfordshire.

Our team has visited a large number of community groups to deliver sensitisation sessions and workshops, as well as running successful public events for our Rose Community, Breaking the Culture of Silence and the launch of our primary school toolkit. We also continue to support young people to take a very active, visible role in anti-FGM initiatives, supporting our Youth Wing to present at conferences, create artwork and run stalls.

Our 2017 poster campaign appealed to the older generation to help end FGM and we created local versions of the poster for Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, East Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Overall, it has been another very full and active year, with great strides being taken to help end FGM and support survivors living in Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley.

# Training In Schools

*“Great training, very sensitively handled with good resources”*

*“Huge thank you. Clear simple message. Confident presentation gives me confidence to talk about FGM too”.*

*“Presentation was clear, well pitched and you have clear possibility to bring about change”.*

*“Thank you really interesting and moving”.*

*“With this knowledge I have created cross college tutorial sessions to better inform our learners and raise awareness across the board”.*

*“The training was very useful in helping me include a module on FGM in our PSHCE scheme of work”.*

*“Really helpful and powerful training”.*

*“...the training was brilliant! Really useful!”*  
Home-School Link Worker, Oxford Primary School

*“I thought the training was really beneficial. Both speakers were amazing and really brave. Thank you.”*  
Primary school Teaching Assistant

*“Due to the large number of children travelling to at risk countries, we have raised our awareness and vigilance when reviewing holidays and monitoring children’s well-being.”* Primary school teacher, Oxfordshire

*“The training was excellent and was made more sobering by engaging with a real [survivor] The discussion and training was thorough and very suitable for primary school”*  
Head Teacher, Oxfordshire primary school

Our main anti-FGM training package includes the harm, the law, reasons, warning signs, safeguarding and mandatory reporting. We have been commissioned to deliver 60 sessions to schools across the Thames Valley, as well as sessions for the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board between 2017 and 2019. We have up-skilled 6 new facilitators in West Berkshire, 1 in East Berkshire and 4 in Buckinghamshire. We were able to make new links with anti-FGM groups in Reading with the support of the Elizabeth Jane Foundation.

Our training work has significant impact, as demonstrated in our Oxfordshire Schools Training Evaluation Report July 2017:

<https://www.oxfordagainstcutting.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OAC-Schools-evaluation-report-July-2017-final.pdf>

And Schools Training Evaluation Report February 2018:  
<https://www.oxfordagainstcutting.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/OAC-Schools-Evaluation-Report-Feb-2018.pdf>

The evaluation demonstrates that confidence levels in dealing with all the issues surrounding FGM increase significantly following our training sessions. In addition, many more schools have confirmed that they now intend to introduce classroom work on body rights, such as the PANTS campaign.

We developed a new package “Talking About FGM in the Classroom”, delivered at the School Safeguarding Conference at Unipart House.



## Schools reached

- Cheney School. Make a Change Day, 80 girls from Year 10 took part in 4 anti-FGM workshops. Cheney School has plans for Oxford Against Cutting to run workshops for the boys in the same year group so there is an entire year group of anti-FGM champions.
- Kidlington Playschool
- Magpies Preschool
- North Kidlington After-School Club
- Edward Feild After School Club
- West Kidlington After School Club
- Magpies Holiday Club (feeding all Kidlington schools)
- New Marston Primary School
- St Nicholas Primary School
- Windale Primary School
- Orchard Meadow Primary School
- Pegasus Primary School
- School Safeguarding Conference, Unipart House
- Church Cowley St James Primary
- Edward Feild Preschool and Primary School
- Rose Hill Primary School and Early Years Team
- Oxford Brookes University, 3<sup>rd</sup> year nursing students
- Burford School Boarding House
- Willowcroft Community School and Nursery School
- Ladygrove Park Primary School
- Cholsey Primary School
- The Oxford Academy
- Oxford Spires Academy
- Berkshire and Buckinghamshire
- St Luke's Church of England School, Maidenhead
- Knowles Primary School, Milton Keynes
- Water Hall Primary School, Milton Keynes

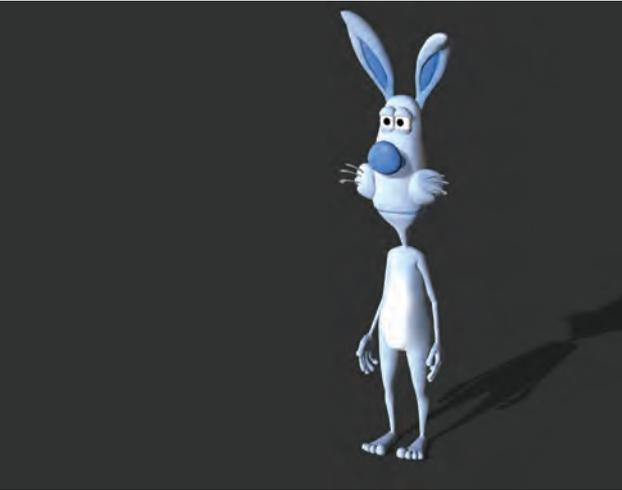




Oxford Against Cutting has developed a primary school toolkit to support schools with classroom work.

The school toolkit includes:

- 1 A film, Who Can You Tell? The film can be viewed on the charity's You Tube channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuGY\\_bNfUmQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuGY_bNfUmQ)
- 2 A lesson plan
- 3 A draft letter to parents/carers
- 4 A toy version of the rabbit in the film for children to cuddle during the lesson (created by a toy-maker, Coldham Cuddlies, who has also offered to make a donation to OAC for each toy sold)
- 5 Case studies for safeguarding learning for teachers



The toolkit was launched at an event to mark Zero Tolerance for FGM Day on 6 February 2018. The event attracted 17 participants and we consulted with primary school teachers about the material. We incorporated the teachers' feedback into the lesson plan. The group also confirmed that the kit is age-appropriate; the rabbit is gender-neutral; the information is sufficient for the age group; and the film does not specifically mention FGM.

The Oxford anti-FGM School Health Nurse Lead has confirmed that the film will be included in puberty lessons for year 5 and 6 students at all primary schools in Oxfordshire (unless the school requests otherwise). A primary school in Oxford City has confirmed that they will trial the lesson in full in 2018.



We are grateful to the Doris Field Charitable Trust for supporting the creation of our toolkit and volunteer film-maker Iain Rennie. We thank Oxford City Council and The Shanly Foundation for supporting our launch event.

OAC is currently developing a secondary school toolkit on FGM, female cosmetic genital surgery (FCGS) and body image in consultation with doctors at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

# Oxford Against Cutting In The Community

Our charity delivered workshops and presentations for:

- The Woodcraft Folk, East Oxford (young people from Matthew Arnold School; Witney College; Cherwell School, Cheney School, John Mason School and Marlborough School).
- The Army Welfare Service, Aldershot
- NASUWT, Teachers' Union, Conference for BME Teachers, the International Convention Centre, Birmingham
- NASUWT, Teachers' Union, Equality Officers' Training and Development Day, Birmingham
- Sunrise Multicultural Project, Banbury (a workshop on domestic abuse in Asian communities)
- Jewins, Oxford
- Oxford Children's Rights Network
- Oxfordshire Youth's annual conference
- AFiUK O'WOW conference, Oxford
- Oxford University Gender Equality Society
- Health Equity Society, Oxford
- Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (4 workshops)
- The Rose Community, Breaking the Culture of Silence, East Oxford Community Centre

- University of Oxford and UnCUT/VOICES Press conference, Elephants in the Room: Hurdles- and Hope – for Ending FGM
- Somali Women's Group, Oxford

We have developed a new package for academic groups.

Breaking the Culture of Silence, on 14 May 2017, included talks on trauma by the Oxford Rose Clinic team and workshop discussions on expected behaviours of the “good girl/woman” and the “good boy/man” to challenge some of the cultural beliefs that underpin FGM. There were 27 participants, with more than half from Gambian, Sudanese and Ghanaian communities.

Our 2017 poster campaign, featuring a grandmother, was launched at our event, Breaking the Culture of Silence, and encouraged inter-generational conversations on FGM. The launch attracted local press interest and Fatou Ceesay, our Community Outreach Director, provided interviews to Jack FM, BBC Radio Oxford and That's Oxford TV.

Supporters:  
Oxfordshire Community Foundation and Rosa





# Youth Wing & Young Champions

The Youth Wing meets regularly and includes young people from 5 Oxford secondary schools/ colleges and representatives of communities from Sudan, Nigeria and Ghana.

## Achievements:

- Two young champions won OxVA's Runner-Up Volunteer of the Year Award
- Young person created the first draft for the script for our film, Who Can You Tell?
- Young person created drawing for our 2017 helplines poster
- Young person is a Trustee of Oxford Against Cutting
- Youth Wing members participated in the song film, Together We Stand, created by In the Pink
- Youth Wing members delivered a talk and ran a stall at M&A Social Enterprises' community event to mark International Women's Day
- Young champion gave a presentation at our session for The Woodcraft Folk about how he helped make our film, Are You Ready to Know?
- Youth Wing ran a cake stall to raise awareness and funds at Headington School
- Youth Wing members delivered a presentation at the Oxfordshire Youth Conference
- Youth Wing ran a cake stall, created and delivered a presentation and participated in discussions at our event, Breaking the Culture of Silence

- Youth Wing participated in planning meetings and launch event for our primary school toolkit
- Youth Wing ran a stall at the Oxfam One World Fair
- Youth Wing raised awareness through social media after creating a Youth Wing Twitter account: OAC\_YouthGroup

In the Pink, a girls' a cappella group with students from Oxford Brookes University and the University of Oxford, participated in a workshop on FGM delivered by OAC and 2 Youth Wing members and were inspired to write a song, Together We Stand. The song was recorded by In the Pink and the film created by an OAC young volunteer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDII0Ijnpss>

Supporter for In the Pink project:  
University of Oxford

OAC will run a workshop series on healthy relationships, consent, body image and FGM for the Under 16s team at East Oxford Football Club during 2018.



# Awareness-Raising

Our 2017 poster features a grandmother and includes helpline numbers to signpost families affected by FGM to support services. The poster appeals to the older generation as grandmothers and aunts are often the cultural custodians of practices such as FGM.

The poster has been disseminated and displayed across Oxfordshire, including at schools and colleges; GP surgeries; community centres; university buildings; health visitor and midwifery settings including the John Radcliffe Hospital; and police stations.

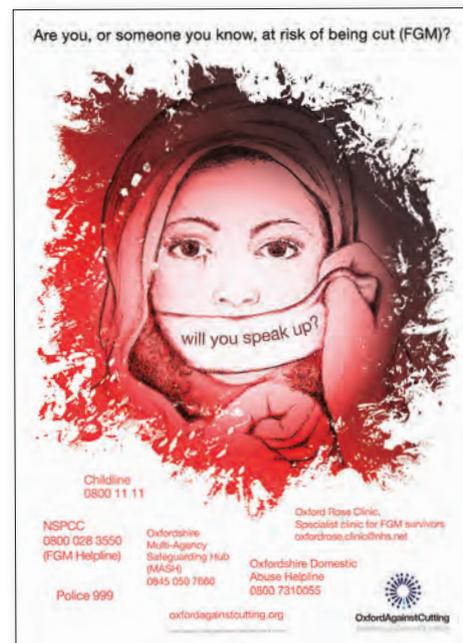
In addition, the poster was displayed in over 60 bus shelters in Oxford during June 2017 and was displayed in 80 bus shelters in Oxford during August and September 2017. OAC also arranged for the poster to be included in Your Oxford.

We collected narratives from “Y”, a representative of the Nigerian community and “I”, an FGM survivor from Sudan, for our website. Both narrators have subsequently participated in other OAC projects.

OAC is grateful to the Allen Lane Foundation for supporting this work in 2017 and 2018.

We have created versions of the grandmother helplines poster to highlight local services in Buckinghamshire, East Berkshire and West Berkshire and shared hard copies with partner agencies.

OAC is currently developing the 2018 poster and we will create versions for all counties in the Thames Valley



# How To Donate

Please support us in helping prevent FGM and support survivors living in Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley. Every donation we receive makes a significant contribution towards continuing our work. Our overheads are minimal as we do not have office space. You can therefore be reassured that your donation will directly contribute to our work to tackle FGM.

**You can donate to Oxford Against Cutting:**

Online via our website: <https://www.oxfordagainstcutting.org/donate-here/>

Make a single donation by bank transfer, or set up a regular donation by standing order Account name:

Oxford Against Cutting Account number: 33389952 Sort code: 20-97-48

For more information visit our website: [www.oxfordagainstcutting.org](http://www.oxfordagainstcutting.org)



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# Going The Extra Mile

In addition to a packed calendar of training, awareness-raising and education events, our team has helped with:

An NHS consultation on anti-FGM commissioning; a consultation on victims' services led by the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner's office; planning for Oxfordshire Youth's Annual Conference; a Thames Valley project for BAMER communities supported by the VAWG Transformation Fund; discussions at the University of Oxford and UnCUT/VOICES Press conference; a consultation with young people for OSARCC.

## **OAC is a member and contributor to:**

- The Oxford FGM Operational Group, set up by Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board.
- The FGM Education group, a sub-group of the Oxford FGM Operational Group.
- Thames Valley FGM Planning Group Meeting.

**Executive Director:** Kate Agha

**Patron:** Dr Brenda Kelly

**Research Director:** Kate Clayton-Hathway

**Community Outreach Director:** Fatou Ceesay

**Director and Speaker:** Kaddy Touray

**Capacity-building Director:** Lena el-Hindi

**Schools Coordinator:** Leila Jabane

## **Trustees**

- Joanne McEwan - (Chair),  
Oxford Health Visitor Lead on FGM
- Dr Sharon Dixon (Treasurer),  
Oxford GP Lead on FGM
- Miranda Dobson
- Caroline Pinder
- Toyosi Atoyebi
- Benn Kiley
- Richard Coleman



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# Our Supporters





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[www.oxfordagainstcutting.org](http://www.oxfordagainstcutting.org)