



OxfordAgainstCutting
ProtectingGirls&Women



Oxford Against Cutting

Annual Review

For year ended 31st March 2023
Charity number 1161597



OxfordAgainstCutting
ProtectingGirls&Women

www.oxfordagainstcutting.org

Executive Summary



Our education work continues to demonstrate the power of learning from people with lived experiences of harmful practices and we are delighted to have reached over 4000 workshop participants in the past year. Young people are now exposed to a multitude of harms and pressures, both in communities and online, and our wide range of workshops helps tackle issues around FGM, forced and early marriage and harmful body image. We are hugely grateful to our funders who have enabled us to deliver workshops for state schools and community groups free of charge.

We have successfully piloted our new workshops on FGM Protection Orders and Tackling Labia Elongation, working together with the National FGM Centre and Project Salama. Our Web Cafes continue to run as a rolling programme, providing regular meeting space for talks and conversation on issues that both communities and professionals can find sensitive to discuss.

With screen time now dominating so much of young people's thinking and behaviours, we were delighted to deliver our new workshop series on Body Image and Smart Phones for students at the Oxford Academy. Students

reflected on online messaging about beauty, skin colour and "perfect" genitalia. At the end of the workshops, the participants showcased their learning with a creative art display, to raise awareness for their peers.

We continue to play a core role in discussions on abuse issues affecting women from minoritised communities. We lead the multi-agency group, Diverse Communities Working Group (Oxon), facilitating discussions that support service planning, such as initiatives for women who cannot leave an abuser. We have also supported the set up of groups in other areas and we are leading discussions to coordinate initiatives across the Thames Valley. Our contribution to the sector also included the delivery of a multi-agency workshop on intersectionality and HBA data collection and the creation of a directory of support organisations and online resources for dealing with domestic abuse, early/forced marriage, 'honour'-based abuse and FGM/C in the Thames Valley and beyond.

We are very proud of our diverse team of dedicated, passionate activists and facilitators. We continue to take great care to ensure all our education and awareness-raising activities are sensitive and on point. We hope you will join our workshops and share our resources widely to help end harmful practices and support survivors.

Thank you for your support.



Working with schools

Our charity delivers education on harmful practices for schools and universities across the Thames Valley and further, always with a facilitator from an affected community who brings lived experience to learning, as well as specialist knowledge. Evaluation of our training consistently demonstrates that knowledge and confidence levels in dealing with all the issues surrounding FGM and forced marriage increase significantly following our workshops.

Our charity provided 79 training sessions, workshops and presentations for state and private schools and other organisations with audiences totalling 4,142 participants across the Thames Valley and beyond.

Our workshops reached in excess of 420 school and teaching staff and over 1,890 students at 10 primary schools, nine secondary schools and one nursery school across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire.

Training and workshops for schools and organisations

- Botley School, Oxford – FGM
- Bracknell Forest Council – HBA
- Buckinghamshire New University, Social Care Students – FGM and HBA
- Child minders – FGM
- The Cooper School, Bicester – Body Image
- Didcot Girls School – FGM
- Elmore Community Services – FGM
- Gresham Primary School, South Croydon – FGM
- Harmans Water Primary School, Bracknell – FGM
- Headington Prep School – FGM
- Headington School – FGM
- James Elliman Academy, Slough – FGM
- Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy, Slough – HBA
- Molinari Institute of Health – FGM
- Monkston Primary School, Milton Keynes – FGM
- Montem Academy, Slough – FGM
- NASUWT – FGM
- North Oxfordshire Academy, Banbury – Body Image
- OSARCC – FGM
- OSCB – HBA
- The Oxford Academy – Body Image
- Oxford High School – Body Image
- Oxfordshire Youth – HBA
- Project Salama's women's group – FGM
- River Learning Trust – FGM and HBA
- St. John's Roman Catholic Primary School – FGM
- Sunrise Multicultural Project – 'Mothers and kids' and 'Gender roles'
- Sunrise Multicultural Project, Orchard Way, Banbury, Ladies' Group – Body Image
- Waddesdon Primary School – FGM
- The Warriner School – Body Image
- Water Hall Primary School, Milton Keynes – FGM

Working with schools

- Water Hall Primary School, Milton Keynes – FGM
- West Berkshire Council – FGM
- Wexham Court Primary School, Slough – FGM
- Wycombe High School – FGM

Conferences and working group presentations

- Leicestershire Police – FGM Conference
- National FGM Centre Conference: International Day of the Girl Child: Ending FGM by 2030
- OSCBVAWG Conference
- Public Policy Exchange Conference: Protecting Women and Girls in the UK from Female Genital Mutilation
- Vavengers FGM and Intersectionality Conference
- Diverse Communities Working Group (Oxon)

We have also created and piloted new workshops on FGM Protection Orders and Tackling Labia Elongation.



Web Café

Our regular series of Web Cafes provide a safe, informal online space for communities and professionals to meet, share learning and provide mutual support on sensitive topics.



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WEB CAFE - LET'S TALK ABOUT 'HONOUR'
Schedule November - December 2022, 12-1pm

Online sessions for difficult conversations about so-called 'honour'-based abuse. Open to communities and professionals.

Honour Based Abuse & Forced Marriage with
Nina Aouilk and Sarnjit Flora - 4th Nov
What does Islam say about 'honour'?
with Abdelhamid Chachi - 11th Nov
Virginity Testing and Hymenoplasty
with Sahar Zand - 25th Nov
Should adult women be able to consent to genital alterations?
with Dr Brian Earp and Dr Fuambai Ahmadu - 2nd Dec
Responses to Domestic Abuse
with Panah Shelter, Karachi - 9th Dec

Zoom login details -
Meeting ID: 895 7209 5828
Passcode: 397220
www.oxfordagaincutting.org

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WEB CAFE
FRIDAY 24TH FEB
12PM -1PM

'HONOUR'-BASED ABUSE IN AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

LED BY HAUWA SULEIMAN, JOINED BY FATOU CEESAY

Hauwa and Fatou will be discussing 'honour'/community based abuse in African communities, exploring examples and support for communities

ZOOM DETAILS
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WEB CAFE SERIES FEB-MAR 2023

10th Feb - FGM and Life Stages - with Sharon Dixon
24th Feb - 'Honour'-Based Abuse in African Communities
3rd March - Pornography, Body Image and Smart Phones
10th March - 'Honour'-Based Abuse - the ripple effect in communities
17th March - Smart Phones - a tool for 'honour'-based abuse?
24th March - Labia Pulling / Stretching (forms of FGM)

ALL SESSIONS: 12PM - 1PM ON FRIDAYS
ZOOM MEETING ID: 895 7209 5828
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WEB CAFE
FRIDAY 17TH MARCH
12PM -1PM

SMART PHONES - A TOOL FOR 'HONOUR'-BASED ABUSE?

WITH GUEST SPEAKER MONICA MAJUMDAR, ANTI-'HONOUR' BASED ABUSE FACILITATOR AND SOCIAL MEDIA EXPERT

IN THE SESSION MONICA WILL BE LOOKING AT HOW SMART PHONES CAN BE USED AS A TOOL TO AID THE CARRYING OUT OF 'HONOUR' BASED ABUSES

ZOOM DETAILS
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WEB CAFE
FRIDAY 10TH MARCH
12PM -1PM

'HONOUR'-BASED ABUSE: THE RIPPLE EFFECT IN COMMUNITIES

LED BY SOBIA AFRIDI WITH 'HONOUR'-BASED ABUSE SURVIVOR AND CAMPAIGNER RUBIE MARIE

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WEB CAFE
FRIDAY 24TH MARCH
12PM -1.30PM

SPECIAL PILOT TRAINING SESSION ON LABIA PULLING / STRETCHING (FORMS OF FGM)

DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JACQUI FROM PROJECT SALAMA. LED BY HAUWA SULEIMAN, ANTI-FGM FACILITATOR

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WEB CAFE
FRIDAY 3RD MARCH
12PM -1PM

PORNOGRAPHY, BODY IMAGE AND SMART PHONES

WITH GUEST SPEAKER ABI WYCHERLEY - VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS COORDINATOR (OXFORDSHIRE)

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SAVERA UK OxfordAgainstCutting
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SPECIAL WEB CAFE
FRIDAY 10TH FEB
12PM -1PM

FGM AND LIFE STAGES

LED BY BABS CEESAY, JOINED BY DR SHARON DIXON - OXFORDSHIRE GP LEAD ON FGM AND NATIONAL FGM LEAD FOR THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS. THIS IS A TWINNED EVENT BY OXFORDAGAINSTCUTTING

This session will look at the experiences of survivors during different life stages, including menstruation, intimate relations, giving birth and the menopause.

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Supporting an intersectional approach to tackling abuse



Dr Kate
Clayton-Hathway

We continue to lead the multi-agency group, Diverse Communities Working Group (Oxon) (previously BAED WORLDS), and run focus group discussions to help inform service delivery for women from minoritised communities suffering abuse.

We have also supported the creation of equivalent groups in Berkshire, Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire and now lead discussions on the parallel working of the groups across the Thames Valley.

Our Oxon group facilitated discussions on:

- Empowerment initiatives
- Why women can't/won't leave
- Interpretation services and communications
- Women who can't/won't leave – mediation services
- Children witnessing abuse in minoritised communities

Diversity Perspectives, led by Dr Kate Clayton-Hathway, supports agencies to ensure training materials, policies and information are suitable for the intended audience from an intersectional perspective. Our diverse and specialist team reviews resources to support the use of materials that are culturally sensitive, gender-appropriate and user-friendly for all ages and abilities. We delivered a multi-agency workshop on intersectionality and HBA data collection and created a directory of support organisations and online resources for dealing with domestic abuse, early/forced marriage, 'honour'-based abuse and FGM/C in the Thames Valley and beyond.

BAED
WORLDS

INVITES YOU TO A
DISCUSSION ON:

Empowerment
initiatives for
minoritised women
suffering domestic
abuse

6TH
OCTOBER
2022

10-11.30am

Join Our
Webinar

Please contact:
news@oxfordagainstcutting.org
for the link

What You Will Learn:

- What is available in Oxfordshire?
- Where are the gaps?
- What can we do to empower women who feel trapped?

The poster features a silhouette of a woman with her arm raised against a sunset background. The design uses a color palette of blue, orange, and white.

Body Image & Smart Phones

We successfully piloted a new workshop series to support secondary school-aged children in learning and critical thinking on how the media shape ideas about the way bodies should look. Students reflected on online influences such as social media, marketing and pornography in relation to beauty 'ideals', helping them better understand where these ideals come from and who they aim to serve.

The sessions were:

- The 'Ideal' Beauty Standard
- Colourism
- Pornography and Cosmetic Body Alterations
- Female Cosmetic Genital Surgery (FCGS) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- A final workshop to create design work related to the project content

Students demonstrated great learning during conversations and the artwork and messaging they created.

Wednesdays 12.30–2.30

21st & 28th Sept
12th Oct
9th & 16th Nov

**Body Image &
The Media**

**ART AND ACTIVISM
PROJECT**

- Sixth form
- Limited Spaces
- Must be able to attend all 5 sessions (total 10 hours)

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Contact Mr O'Hanlon or Dot Pritchard (from supporting charity) to book your place on the project. Details below. *

Session 1 – **The 'Ideal' Beauty Standard**

Session 2 – **Colourism**

Session 3 – **Pornography and Cosmetic Body Alterations**

Session 4 – **Female Cosmetic Genital Surgery (FCGS) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

Session 5 – **Final workshop for design work. Final artwork will be displayed after the project.**

*
michael.ohanlon@theoxfordacademy.org
dot@oxfordagainstcutting.org

OAC Online

Our charity continues to use social media for awareness raising, information sharing and positive change.

For example, we ran 'Instagram Live' sessions with Hoda Ali and Nina Aouilk, including time for Q&A.



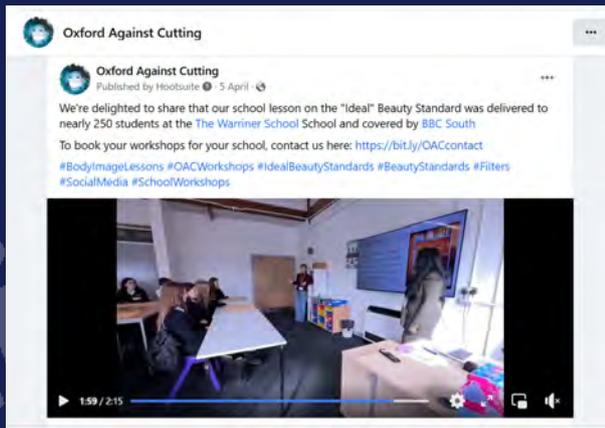
We took part in the 16 days of activism, together with other local charities, using hashtag #SurvivorVoiceOxon

We increased our audiences across all social media platforms.

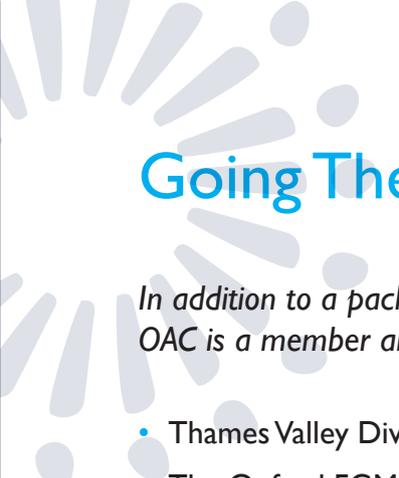
And we continued to strengthen our partnerships and build new relationships via social media.



BBC South Today filmed us 'in action' delivering our Body Image workshops at The Warriner School, Banbury.



-  Twitter: @OAgainstCutting
-  Facebook: @OxfordAgainstCutting
-  Instagram: @oxfordagainstcutting
-  LinkedIn: Oxford Against Cutting



Going The Extra Mile...

In addition to a packed calendar of training, awareness-raising and education events, OAC is a member and contributor to:

- Thames Valley Diverse Communities Partnership
- The Oxford FGM Operational Group (sub group of Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board)
- The Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (OxDAP) including participation in a strategy day on the group's remit
- The Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group
- Home Office's Anti-FGM Stakeholder Group
- Case Review (anonymised) meetings with Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Services
- Services for Education's focus group for educators of FGM to reflect on FGM Language and Education to support a research project by the University of Birmingham

Our Trustees

- Caroline Pinder (Chair)
- Liz Parry (Co-Chair)
- Dr Sharon Dixon (Treasurer), National GP Lead on FGM
- Miranda Dobson
- Richard Coleman
- Naseem Sarbatta-Walia
- Seiza Bashir
- Ahd Hassan
- Leethen Bartholomew

Patron

- Dr Brenda Kelly, Director of the Oxford Rose Clinic
- 

Our Team

- **Kate Agha** - CEO
- **Dr Kate Clayton - Hathway**
Director of Research and Evaluation
- **Dot Pritchard**
Operations Manager
- **Hauwa Suleiman**
Gender Specialist and Diverse Communities Working Group (Oxon) Co-Chair and Coordinator
- **Tanya Vyas**
Social Media Communications Coordinator
- **Carolyn Morris**
Schools Coordinator
- **Rumbi Evans**
Office Manager
- **Kaddy Touray**
Senior Anti-FGM Facilitator
- **Dr Nesreen Yanni**
Anti-FGM Facilitator
- **Rubie Marie**
Ambassador and Anti-HBA Facilitator
- **Mariama Sallah**
Anti-FGM Facilitator
- **Sobia Afridi**
Anti-HBA Facilitator
- **Monica Majumdar-Choudhary**
Anti-HBA Facilitator and Social Media Specialist
- **Emma Woods**
Body Image Facilitator
- **Keisy Lin Fong**
Body Image Facilitator
- **Babs Ceesay**
Anti-FGM Facilitator
- **Moram Nafaa**
Anti-FGM Facilitator
- **Valerie Lolomari**
Anti-FGM Facilitator





How To Donate

Please support us in helping prevent FGM and forced marriage and support survivors living in 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 harmful cultural practices.

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



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Our Supporters





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