

Sample letter to an MP

Dear **[MP'S NAME]**,

I am writing to you as a local constituent of **[AREA NAME]** and want express my concerns about the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM).

Recent estimates have shown that 66,000 women and girls have undergone FGM in England and Wales and up to 30,000 girls are at risk of undergoing it. However, despite the fact that FGM has been illegal in the UK since 1985 and it has also been against the law to take British girls overseas for FGM since 2003, there has never been a single prosecution for this crime.

Over the last year successful campaigns by anti-FGM organisations like 28 Too Many have led to an increased public awareness and concern on this issue. These campaigns have also highlighted the need for the Government to take action including:

- Treating FGM as child abuse, providing the best child protection/safeguarding to girls at risk of FGM and mandatory training on FGM for all professionals with a duty of care for children
- Ensuring good practice in FGM identification, recording and reporting, particularly by health, social care, education and all professionals involved in child protection/safeguarding
- Investing in community outreach work to educate those who practice FGM on the harm it causes, that it is illegal in the UK and that cultural, community and family identity can be strengthened by abandoning harmful practices
- Education on FGM to all young people should be a compulsory element of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education starting with primary age children. Girls who are potentially at risk need to be aware of FGM and what it means before they reach an age where it usually takes place - between 8 and 14 years old. Without this knowledge they are unable to seek help and protection
- Clear policies and procedures to ensure that those who have had FGM have access to support services and that there is information sharing and referring protocols between health, social care and other key services.

I would be grateful if you could raise my concerns with the Home Secretary on what progress is being made on these important issues.

I would also like to know what measures will be taken to protect girls against FGM in **[AREA NAME]** and how constituents can support efforts to end of FGM.

Yours sincerely,