

# FGC

is not only an  
AFRICAN  
ISSUE

A LOOK AT THE PREVALENCE  
OF FGC IN NON-AFRICAN  
COUNTRIES

Female genital cutting is known to be practised by diaspora groups worldwide. Communities migrate, bringing their traditions with them. Those customs which they perceive as part of their cultural identity are most likely to be upheld.

It is hard to estimate the prevalence of FGC within

these immigrant communities, as it is often considered a private affair. In many countries FGC is illegal, and therefore it may be carried out in secret. Alternatively, children are sometimes taken back to their parents' native countries for the procedure - often known as 'holiday cutting'.



**500,000** is the estimated number of girls and women are living with FGC in Europe alone



**14 years** in prison is the maximum penalty for those who commit FGC in the UK



**1982** was the year Sweden became the first non-practising state to officially ban FGC



**180,000** girls are estimated to be at risk of being subjected to FGC in Europe

