



OxfordAgainstCutting
ProtectingGirls&Women



Oxford Against Cutting Annual Review

For year ended 31st March 2020
Charity number 1161597



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ProtectingGirls&Women

www.oxfordagainstcutting.org

Executive Summary

We passionately believe that education is the key to social change. Schools can both safeguard children and support them to make healthy decisions for the next generation. We continue to provide workshops to teachers and students, at all education levels, on female genital mutilation (FGM), early and forced marriage and cosmetic genital surgeries. All our workshops are delivered by people from affected communities who can share lived experiences of the impact of harmful practices on families and communities.

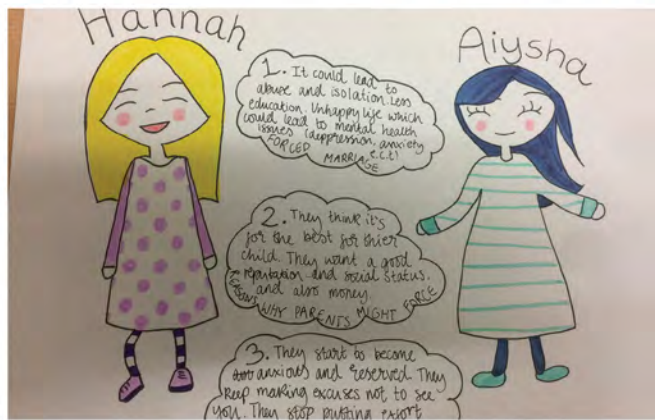
We are delighted to have been commissioned to deliver workshops to schools across the Thames Valley over two years by Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner. Early evaluation indicates that this project has significantly increased the confidence of schools in safeguarding children and talking about sensitive issues such as FGM in the classroom. In addition, we have had the opportunity to work with co-facilitators from anti-FGM groups in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. With mandatory lessons on FGM and forced marriage being introduced in September 2020, we now have a wealth of expertise to support learning.



In addition to schools education, we continue to support our Youth Wing and run workshops using art to raise awareness in community groups. This year we supported young people to participate in a partnership project with Cowley Road Works to create a processional piece for the Cowley Carnival. Our young champions were also inspired to create, perform and film a new solidarity song, "For Every Girl". Using art, we delivered workshops on abuse issues for South Asian women's groups, and ran a public workshop, Freedom from FGM - Advocacy through Hand-lettering.

Our 2019 helplines poster campaign was based on artwork created by children at Cherwell School. We created local versions of the poster for Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, East Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. We also delivered the Evaluation of a two-year project focusing on Thames Valley abuse services for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) women and a specialist workshop on honour-based abuse (HBA) Data Collection in the Thames Valley.

We hope you enjoy reading more about our activities and can support us in our work to end harmful practices.



Working with schools

Our charity has delivered lessons and workshops for schools across the Thames Valley, always with a facilitator from an affected community. Our evaluation demonstrates that confidence levels in dealing with all the issues surrounding FGM and forced marriage increase significantly following our training sessions. We have started to develop peer education and were delighted to work with Ahd Hassan, our Young Champion at Cherwell School, who helped facilitate lessons on FGM for Year 9 students.

"I thought the training was excellent and invaluable. Thank you very much."

Primary school teacher

"Thank you for your thought-provoking insight using your own personal and painful experience. This really brought it to the forefront of our minds even more than before."

"A really honest and practical informative INSET. Thank you"

Head teacher & safeguarding lead

"I now understand who I need to turn to for help/ advice and I have more understanding of what it is, and how I can help. I also know of some symptoms and when to notify someone with concerns if FGM or Forced Marriage is possibly happening."

Primary school teacher, attendee of HBA training session (follow-up questionnaire)

"The lady who spoke from personal experience was fantastic and gave the training a hard-hitting, realistic, personal edge."

Primary school teacher, attendee of FGM training session (follow-up questionnaire)



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Schools reached (April 2019-2020)

We delivered workshops and lessons on FGM and/or forced marriage for the following schools:

Oxfordshire

- Botley School, Oxford
- Cherwell School
- The Close Day Nursery School, Banbury
- Dalton Pre-School Nursery, Dalton Barracks
- Didcot Girls School
- St Gregory the Great Secondary School, Oxford
- Headington School
- Matthew Arnold School, Oxford
- New Marston Primary School
- NOA's Ark Nursery, Banbury
- Oxford Brookes Children's Nursing Students
- Robin Pre-School, Kidlington
- St Swithun's CE Primary School, Kennington

Buckinghamshire

- Hannah Ball School, High Wycombe
- Kents Hill Park School, Milton Keynes
- Knowles Primary School, Milton Keynes
- NASUWT Milton Keynes Local Association
- Water Hall Primary School, Bletchley
- Wycombe High School

Berkshire

- Bracknell Family Support Advisors
- DSLs Networking Meeting, Maidenhead
- James Elliman Academy, Slough
- Jennett's Park Primary School, Bracknell
- The Langley Academy Primary, Slough
- Meadow Vale Primary School, Bracknell
- Montem Academy, Slough
- Wellington Nursery, Slough
- Wexham Court Primary School, Slough
- Wooden Hill Primary School, Bracknell

Wiltshire

- Chilton Foliat Primary School, Hungerford
- Marlborough St Mary's Primary School, Marlborough
- Ogbourne C of E Primary School, Marlborough
- Ramsbury Primary School, Marlborough

2126 people participated in our workshops in the calendar year 2019!
 - 87% were teachers and students;
 13% were other professionals.

Working with young people and communities - Examples of creative workshops



Anti-FGM Dance Workshop

We ran an Anti-FGM Dance Workshop, in partnership with Oxford Sudanese Youth Group, in April 2019. There were 11 participants (all female) ranging from 13 to 20 years old, as well as two adult women. The workshop began with a 45 minute workshop on FGM, led by our Lena El-Hindi, followed by a dance workshop led by our Dot Pritchard. The dances included messaging on growth and change, like the growth of a plant from a seed; moving forwards as a group; and standing together in solidarity.

The session proved to be a successful way to engage young people and provide valuable learning, whilst also having some fun!

'Very entertaining and useful. I enjoyed it a lot and understood the harm of FGM.'

'Very informative and useful videos.'

'Really useful. Got the message across.'

'Very insightful. Was all ages friendly.'

'Very entertaining. Lots of useful information.'

'I have learned a lot. It was really fun.'

'I enjoyed discussing different possible scenarios.'

'It was educational. I enjoyed the discussions.'

'I like dancing.'

'It was fun and I learned a lot.'

'Everyone was nice and very educational.'

I really enjoyed it. Thanks.'

Art workshops at Cherwell School

Young people at Cherwell School creating a banner for our charity whilst having informal discussions about FGM.





Cowley Road Works

Our Youth Wing partnered with Oxfordshire arts charity, Cowley Road Works, to create a processional piece for Cowley Carnival in Oxford. The theme of the carnival was Space and our team created a 'galactic mother of the universe'! The structure is a space-like pregnant lady representing femininity and natural diversity in the female body.

FREEDOM FROM FGM
Advocacy through
hand-lettering

10-12PM SATURDAY 7TH MARCH

Join our workshop to learn about female genital mutilation (FGM), how we can unite communities against the practice and use words and art to raise awareness. Participants will have the opportunity to use hand-lettering to create messages in different languages.

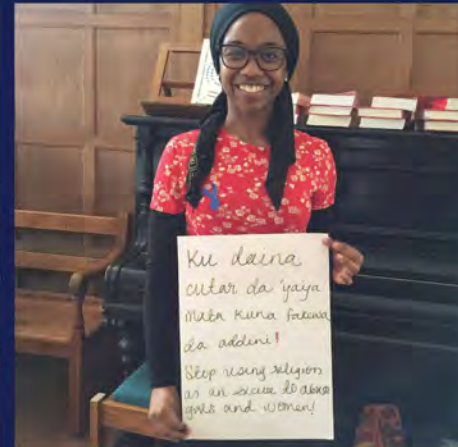
Free event: donations welcome
age 13+ / wheelchair access

Oxford Quaker Meeting House,
43 St. Giles,
Oxford, OX1 3LW

Please email Dot Pritchard for more info:
dot@oxfordagainstcutting.org

Light refreshments will be provided.

Browse the full festival at:
www.oifw.org
#OXINTWOMENSFEST
#OIFW2020



Freedom from FGM – Advocacy through Hand-lettering

On 7 March 2020 we ran a Hand-Lettering Workshop to raise awareness of FGM and show people how they can use art to help start conversations. During the workshop, our Kaddy Touray delivered a talk on FGM and participants made their own pieces of art with the help of a local graphic designer. The workshop was part of Oxford International Women's Festival.



Our charity delivered workshops and presentations for:

- Amnesty International Oxford City
- Stall for East Oxford Primary School
- In the Pink girls a cappella, Oxford
- Oxfordshire Newly Qualified Social Workers
- Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (multi-agency training)
- Oxford Society of Paediatrics Annual Conference
- Oxford Sudanese Youth Club
- Sunrise Multicultural Project, Banbury
- Terrence Higgins Trust, Oxford
- Women's Equality Party, Oxford
- Westminster Briefing Conference, London



Youth Wing & Young Champions



The Youth Wing includes young people from Oxford secondary schools and colleges and representatives of both affected and non-affected communities.

Achievements:

- Youth Wing created, performed and filmed a song, For Every Girl
- Youth Wing performed For Every Girl at Womanity event run by Young Women's Music Project
- Youth Wing performed For Every Girl and gave a presentation at Integrate UK conference
- Youth Wing gave press interviews
- Young person co-facilitated lessons on FGM for peers at Cherwell School
- Young person helped run a stall at East Oxford Primary School

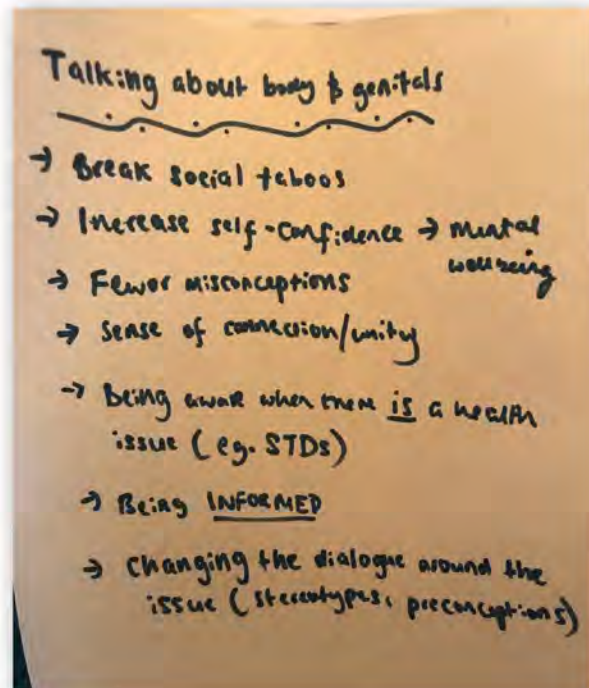
In the Pink, a girls' a cappella group with students from Oxford Brookes University and the University of Oxford, participated in a workshop on forced marriage delivered by OAC and subsequently organised a concert to raise funds for our charity. Thank you In the Pink!

Working With Everybody

We believe it is important to talk openly with students about harmful practices that affect children from all cultural backgrounds. It is helpful for girls to reflect on pressures to make sexualised body alterations and recognise some of the parallels underpinning different practices. For example, some of the reasons and pressures to carry out FGM and cosmetic genital surgeries are similar and we address these issues together when we talk to sixth-form students. We also believe everyone, regardless of cultural background, has a role to play in safeguarding children.



Artist: Roisin Anderson



Body Image Workshops at Cheney School

In February 2019, our facilitators delivered Body Image Workshops to Sixth Form students at Cheney School. The workshop included discussions and learning on the female genitalia, beauty standards, pornography and the media.



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Awareness-Raising

Our 2019 helplines poster was drawn by children at Cherwell School for our anti-FGM art project. The drawing shows a community holding up banners displaying important messages and highlights the importance of working together to end FGM.

Our poster campaigns have been running since 2015 and are displayed before the start of the school summer holidays, when many girls in the UK may be at high risk of being cut.

We created versions of the poster to highlight local services in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, West Berkshire and East Berkshire (Slough; Bracknell Forest; and Windsor and Maidenhead) and shared hard copies with partner agencies.

The poster was disseminated and displayed across the Thames Valley, including at schools and colleges, GP surgeries, community centres, university buildings, health visitor and midwifery settings, hospitals and police stations.

In addition, the poster was displayed in 80 bus shelters in Oxford during May and June 2019, as well as bus shelters in central locations in Milton Keynes and Slough.

The posters help families affected by FGM reach front-line services, such as the Oxford Rose Clinic, a clinic attached to the John Radcliffe Hospital, for survivors of FGM.



Let's protect our girls and support survivors of FGM

If you have had FGM/C and have health problems, you can access help at the Oxford Rose Clinic.

Oxford Rose Clinic for FGM Survivors
07767 671 406

NSPCC - 0800 028 3550

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
0345 050 7666

Childline - 0800 11 11

Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Services 0800 731 0055

Police - 999

www.oxfordagainstcutting.org

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

At the time of writing and publishing this report we have been facing new challenges in our schools and community work due to the COVID lockdown, but we have found new ways of working with affected communities and raising awareness of harmful practices, which will be reported in our next Annual Report.



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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 BAMER Project Board

The Oxford FGM Operational Group, set up by Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

The Oxford FGM Education group, a sub-group of the Oxford FGM Operational Group

The Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Operational Group

Home Office's Anti-FGM Stakeholder Group

Round table meeting organised by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health

CEO: Kate Agha

Patron: Dr Brenda Kelly
(Consultant Obstetrician and Founder and Director of the Oxford Rose Clinic)

Trustees

- Caroline Pinder (Chair)
- Dr Sharon Dixon (Treasurer),
National GP Lead on FGM
- Richard Coleman
- Miranda Dobson
- Benn Kiley
- Faith Oyegbile
- Liz Parry



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Our Supporters





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