

# PROFESSOR FELICITY GERRY QC - FGM INFO SHEET

## What is FGM?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women. See WHO Fact sheet [here](#)

FGM is recognised to be a form of child abuse and is the subject of criminal and family laws in many jurisdictions.

Professor Felicity Gerry QC is an international QC at Carmelite Chambers, London and Crockett Chambers, Melbourne. She is also Professor of Legal Practice at Deakin University. She has been involved in the push to eradicate FGM since 2010 since dedicating a Chapter in her publication The Sexual Offences Handbook on the application of law to FGM.

In 2012 Felicity wrote the ground breaking article in The Guardian "[Female Genital Mutilation: Time for a prosecution](#)" following a successful training session for CPS lawyers and other professionals on how the law in relation to FGM could be enforced. Since then she has advised on FGM cases, lectured on FGM and the law in England, Australia and the Philippines, published research, presented at conferences and appeared in the [BAFTA nominated FGM documentary "The Cruel Cut" on UK channel 4.](#)

## Felicity Gerry FGM Bio

She was a member of the working party for the Bar Human Rights Committee where her research contributed to the influential report submitted to the UK Government Home Affairs Committee which led to improvements in the laws and policies to combat FGM, particularly the implementation of FGM Orders. Her latest research on the worrying way that FGM figures are collected in the UK was recently published in the British Medical Journal and the Journal of Midwifery.

## Felicity's FGM Publications

In 2010, Dedicated Chapter in The Sexual Offences Handbook on FGM – raised issue of application of sexual offences protection orders with UK CPS

In 2012 Felicity Gerry QC wrote the ground breaking article in The Guardian "[Female Genital Mutilation: Time for a prosecution](#)" following a successful presentation to CPS lawyers and other professionals on how the law in relation to FGM could be enforced.

In 2014 Felicity published a joint article in The Guardian with Dexter Dias QC and Hilary Burrage [10 ways why FGM law has failed and 10 ways to improve FGM law](#)

In 2014 Felicity published a peer reviewed article in the Griffith Journal of law and human dignity special edition on women and violence: "[Let's talk about Vaginas: Female Genital Mutilation, the failure of international obligations and how to end an abusive tradition.](#)"

March 2015 Felicity published an article '[Vaginal piercings have always been FGM](#)' for the Halsbury's Law Exchange.

2016 [Read our publication on the worrying way FGM figures are collected in the UK](#)

2019 Felicity writes blog for Lexis Nexis on [the first FGM prosecution – what's next?](#)

## Felicity's FGM Media & Campaigning

In 2013 Felicity appeared on a panel after the launch of the [Integrate Bristol FGM play "My Normal Life"](#)

In 2013 Felicity appeared in the [BAFTA nominated FGM documentary "The Cruel Cut" on UK channel 4.](#)

In 2014 Felicity opened the Darwin premiere of the [Honour Diaries Movie](#). See the CNN feature on the Honor Diaries here

September 2014 FGM video presentation to Midwifery Society conference at Huddersfield University.

November 2014 Annual Bar Conference in London – 8th of November 2014. Association of Women barristers presentation: "Achieving Excellence in FGM Cases" Felicity on the panel together with Comfort Momoh and the DPP.

September 2015 member of FGM keynote panel [Damned Whores and God's Police 40 Years On Conference.](#)

September 2015 Felicity published a [podcast through CPDcast.com](#) with Neelam Sarkaria on FGM.

May 2018 Felicity spoke at Panel discussion at the Royal College of Midwives, London: '[A Call to Act to End FGM](#)'

## Felicity's FGM Training & Teaching

In 2013 Felicity gave guidance on statutory interpretation in relation to an FGM case in the Asia Pacific Region.

2014 Felicity was a member of the working party for the [UK Bar Human Rights Committee which prepared & submitted the influential report on FGM](#) to the UK Government Home Affairs Committee – several of the recommendations have been accepted and now proposed by the British Government.

May 2014 teaching masters students at De La Salle University in Manila on women's health and the law including FGM and Abortion

April 2015 Collaborative grant for a project with Menzies School of Health on women's health and the law with a focus on FGM, Abortion and teenage pregnancy. Resulted in FGM being added to both health and law curricula.

July 2015 Presented FGM and the law to the Law Society of South Australia and various meetings with politicians organised by NoFGMAustralia. Read the presentation and handout – [SA FGM event](#) and [NoFGM Oz Handout](#)

[Click here to watch her 2016 webinar on FGM and the law with the Australian Council of Midwives](#)



[To watch her 2014 video on crime prevention and FGM click here](#)



Felicity on Technology & Law - [click here](#)



Felicity on Women & Law - [click here](#)



Felicity on Reforming Justice Systems - [click here](#)