

Participant Information Sheet

Study Title: Researching the FGM Intervention programmes linked to African communities in the EU (REPLACE 2)

What is the purpose of this study?

The aim of the study is to find out the beliefs, values and attitudes regarding female circumcision/cutting among the community and how people come to decisions about whether to circumcise their daughters or not.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been asked to take part because you are connected with a community affected by FGM and we are interested in your views and what you have to say.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in the research is voluntary and if you change your mind you can withdraw your consent at any time.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be asked to attend a focus group discussion consisting of no more than eight other people of the same gender. The meeting will take place at a location convenient to you. Refreshments will be provided and transport costs reimbursed. The focus group discussion will be tape recorded. At the end of the focus group discussion the facilitator will de-brief you about the research and you will be given an opportunity to ask questions and discuss matters relating to your participation. You will also be given contact details of the facilitator and the research team at Coventry University.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There is a time cost as we will ask you to give up some of your time to take part in the focus group discussion. It might also be that you find talking about the subject difficult or uncomfortable. You do not have to talk about personal experiences unless you want to and you can stop the discussion at any time if you do not wish to continue.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By taking part in the research you will have the opportunity to have your say about the important issue of female circumcision/cutting. It will also give you the chance to contribute to research aimed at developing our understanding of female circumcision.

What if something goes wrong/I am not happy about something?

If there is anything you are unhappy about let us know (our contact details are at the end of this sheet). Alternatively you could speak to the facilitator, who will then contact us on your behalf. We will also give you contact information for sources of help and advice (see last page).

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

The data we collect from you is anonymous; you will not be required to give your full name, only your first name if you are happy to do so. Any other information collected about you (e.g. your age) is only for the purposes of identification in case we need to delete any information if you withdraw your consent but this will not be shared with any third parties.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The information that is recorded during interviews will be transcribed (written word for word) and analyzed using a computer software programme. You can see your transcript and a copy of the final

report, if you so wish, by contacting the research team. The findings of the research will inform the development of an intervention based on the identified facilitators and barriers that are specific to you.

Who is organising the research?

The research is being conducted by Coventry University, FORWARD, Federation of Somali Associations Netherlands (FSAN), Associacao Para o Planeamento da Familia (APF), Gabinet d'Estudis Socials (GES), & CESIE . Please visit the website for more information about the research:

www.replacefgm2.eu

Who has reviewed the study?

The study was submitted to the Coventry University Ethics Committee for approval and was approved before we contacted you.

Contact for further information

Other sites that might be of interest:

www.healthinterventions.co.uk

www.forwarduk.org.uk

www.fsan.nl

www.apf.pt

www.gabinet.com

www.cesie.org