


FGC

IN ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Female genital cutting is a global issue. Whilst it takes place in 27 countries across Africa, girls and women in parts of Asia and the Middle East are also subjected to the practice. It is a taboo and under-researched issue but has been shown to exist in the countries highlighted below.

Drivers that perpetuate FGC include tradition, culture, social pressure and religion. Although FGC pre-dates Islam, is not mentioned in the Qur'an and is not practised by the majority of Muslims worldwide, FGC is often believed to be an Islamic imperative in some places.

 **Medicalisation** is a growing problem; Indonesia and Malaysia have called for a 'standardisation' of the procedure, legitimising the practice.

 **52 Islamic Scholars** attended a conference in Cairo in 2006, culminating in a fatwa being issued against FGC by Ali Gomaa, Grand Mufti of Egypt.

 **Very little data** exists on the extent of the practice outside of Africa; national prevalence statistics only exist for Iraq and Yemen.

