

Proclamation of Interagency Support for Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) Investigations Between U.K and U.S. Law Enforcement

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is a global issue that transcends our borders. FGM/C is a culturally-based, gender-specific form of violence and when performed on girls under the age of 18, it is child abuse. The top priorities of the U.K. and U.S. are safeguarding girls through prevention, multi-agency partnership and education. These efforts require that we learn and share our experiences and cooperate through both our informal and formal engagements. Through existing police to police and mutual assistance agreements and arrangements, the U.S. and U.K. law enforcement intend to share intelligence to enhance our knowledge of, and response to female genital mutilation. This collaboration seeks to build our intelligence capacity to identify those involved in perpetrating or facilitating FGM/C offences whilst safeguarding potential victims.

Agencies

1. Metropolitan Police Service
2. National Police Chiefs Council
3. U.K. Border Force
4. U.K. Crown Prosecution Service
5. U.K British Transport Police
6. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations
7. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation
8. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection
9. U.S. Department of State

Objectives

The above-referenced law enforcement agencies in both the U.S. and the U.K. seek to:

1. Publicly state their intent to coordinate to better identify perpetrators of FGM/C, including individuals who facilitate or otherwise assist in the perpetration of FGM/C, and to better identify victims and potential victims of FGM/C residing in the U.S. and U.K.
2. Share intelligence about travel patterns, community-specific FGM/C practices (ages, seasons, types, terminology, rationale, where/how practiced (e.g., within the U.S. or U.K., in native country), medicalization of FGM/C, and other relevant information in order to better focus limited resources and more accurately identify perpetrators and potential victims.
3. Share specific information concerning travel patterns and routes of victims and/or perpetrators between the U.S. and U.K. in order to ensure that travel between the U.K. and U.S. and travel from one of those countries to another country does not inhibit law enforcement activities.
4. Raise awareness that FGM/C does not happen in isolation of other criminality or harmful practices and facilitate enhanced joint working relationships between law enforcement agencies and civil society professionals on these harmful practices.

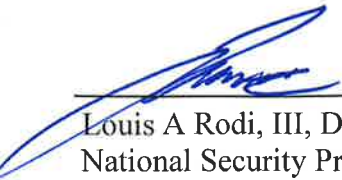
Activities

Pursuant to the above-referenced objectives, relevant U.K and U.S. law enforcement agencies seek to:

1. Hold quarterly conference meetings / calls with operational law enforcement professionals covering a FGM/C response in their respective countries.
2. Identify an individual lead to organize the quarterly meetings / calls, alternating between the U.S. and U.K. as needed.
3. Share cooperative engagements and FGM/C outreach updates at international public gatherings (e.g. Eurojust) and nationally (e.g. Home Office, U.K.).
4. Share updates on Operation Limelight and Operation Limelight USA activities.
5. Share community-specific information on FGM/C practices.
6. Share updates on active - shared cases and debrief about lessons learned.
7. Share investigative practices, particularly concerning lead-generation and investigative techniques.
8. Share promising collaborative efforts with civil society and prevention techniques and tools (e.g. civil protection orders, non-profit organization contacts and programs).
9. Share prevalence rates and available data sets, as well as best practices for more accurate measurement (e.g. World Health Organization data, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics, mandatory medical coding of FGM/C, large-scale FGM/C-related research studies, and NHS FGM Enhanced Dataset).
10. Share expert names, background information (if available), and areas of specialty (e.g. psychological trauma, FGM/C practice within a specific ethnic group).

The officials signing below approve of this proclamation and give agency support for Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) investigations.

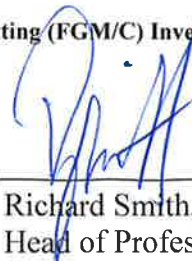
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U.S. Immigration
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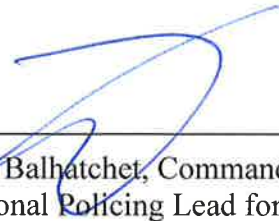
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Border Force



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