



## **Unite the Union Response to:**

### **English Home Office consultation: Introducing Mandatory reporting for Female Genital Mutilation.**

**This response is submitted by Unite. Unite is the UK's largest trade union with 1.5 million members across the private and public sectors. The union's members work in a range of industries including manufacturing, financial services, print, media, construction, transport, local government, education, health and not for profit sectors.**

Unite represents in excess of 100,000 health sector workers. This includes eight professional associations - College of Health Care Chaplains (CHCC), Community Practitioners and Health Visitors' Association (CPHVA), Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists (GHP), Hospital Physicians Association (HPA), Medical Practitioners Union (MPU), Mental Health Nurses Association (MNHA), Society of Sexual Health Advisers (SSHA) and British Veterinary Union (BVU).

Unite also represents members in occupations such as allied health professions, healthcare science, applied psychology, counselling and psychotherapy, dental professions, audiology, optometry, building trades, estates, craft and maintenance, administration, ICT, support services and ambulance services.

## **Introduction**

Unite welcomes the opportunity to respond to the English Home Office consultation: Introducing Mandatory reporting for Female Genital Mutilation.

### **What level of sanction do you think should be placed upon individuals who fail to report FGM upon the new duty?**

Unite believes the sanction on the registrant should be the same as exists for failure to act now. It should include re-education concerning FGM and safeguarding.

### **Do you agree that all persons exercising public functions in relation to tackling FGM should be under a duty to have regard to the statutory guidance?**

Yes, especially those who work in housing, homeless teenagers, youth offending teams and with young people

### **Are there substantive amendments which could be made to the guidelines, which would help to prevent FGM and protect and support victims?**

Making the multi-agency practice guidelines mandatory will support mandatory reporting. This was a recommendation made by The House of Commons Home Affairs Committee on Female Genital Mutilation in 2014.

### **What evidence or information do you have on the expected increase in reports to the police or social services from introducing mandatory reporting and how do you think they will vary with the different proposals?**

We believe there will be an increase in reporting but we cannot say to what level.

### **What evidence or information do you have on the cost of referring FGM to the police or social services? For example, information on the length of time it takes to file a report or the length of time the police spend investigating a case will enable us to better establish the cost of the policy.**

We believe there will be an increase in reporting but we cannot say to what level.

### **What do you think the expected impact of mandatory reporting would be on the prevalence of FGM and would this change with the different proposals?**

Yes, If proposals cover under 18s and is for known cases we will only find out prevalence and have little or no impact on reduction and eradication. It is important to cover reporting for all and to include risk.