

Young And Circumcised

A guide to the film for helpers



This is a film about female circumcision

A number of films about this theme have been produced in Norway and abroad. What makes this film unique is that it was made especially for young women and girls (aged 15-25) who come from places where FGM is practiced, and who now live in Norway. The film approaches a sensitive theme with delicacy. It is respectful with reference to the traditional cultures of the countries girls come from, but true to the responsibility to promote the laws and rights that exist in the country they have come to. This is a film *for* people from places where FGM is practiced and *with* people from these places. The film explains the basics of FGM in such a way that people without previous knowledge can understand – with the aid of animation, for example. The film was made with peer-group support work in mind. The film is made in such a way that it requires neither an understanding of the Norwegian language nor literacy. The film has soundtracks in Norwegian, English, Somali and Tigrinya. The film was produced by RVTS Sor in collaboration with Save the Children Norway. The film was financed by the Norwegian directorate for children, youth and family.

TARGET GROUPS FOR THE FILM

The film targets two groups in particular:

- 1) Young women and girls from affected areas. A number of young women with personal experience of FGM have contributed to the film's form and content. Although the film was made with young women in mind, both men and women of all ages may profit from it. It must be emphasized, however, that dialogue and discussions will flow more freely in gender-specific groups.
- 2) Adult peer-support facilitators and professionals who meet these young women in primary health care, upper or lower secondary schools, asylum-seeker centres, adult education or as facilitators from affected areas may use the film as a tool for providing information and a forum for dialog and discussion.

THE AIM OF THE FILM

The film aims to ensure that this tradition will not be handed on to the next generation. At the same time, the film shows that it is possible to have a good life, also sexually, even if one has been circumcised.

WAYS OF USING THE FILM

The film may be used in peer-support sessions, where the film is first shown to a group and then participants are invited to talk about it, under the guidance of an adult peer-support facilitator or health professional. The film may also be used to provide information - in introduction programs, asylum-seeker centres, schools or primary health care centres.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE FILM

The film is divided into two main parts:

- 1) Factual information about FGM and health problems
Such information is necessary because knowledge affects attitudes. The prevention of FGM requires that space be made for new attitudes, and that facts replace myths. Hopefully, the knowledge will also provide young women and girls with a feeling of security and with good arguments to help them withstand social pressure.
- 2) Reflections on self-image, sexual identity, hope and possibilities when one is circumcised.
Affected women in Norway are met with the understanding that their bodies are damaged. This can give rise to feelings of shame in relation to identity and sexuality. The film focuses especially on these themes in order to prevent affected girls/woman from being left with powerful feelings of shame and hopelessness. This is also the background for the choice of the words 'female circumcision' instead of 'genital mutilation' in the film.

The film is divided into the following chapters:

1. Introduction – My story
2. How do female genitals look?
3. What is female circumcision?
4. Where is it done?
5. Is female circumcision illegal?
6. How does female circumcision endanger health?
7. Myths about circumcision.
8. How can you have a good sexual relation after circumcision?

You can choose chapters that you especially wish to show, or that you would like to repeat, by moving the marker on the time-line under the film.