

*Female Genital Mutilation* by Dr Charlotte Proudman makes an important contribution to our understanding of this controversial problem. Written with a keenly critical eye, a broad understanding of the legal and cultural issues, and sensitivity to the lived experience of the survivors, Proudman draws on her experience as an academic and a practicing barrister to provide a rich description of the issue and a forward-looking analysis of how to protect girls and women from being victimized.

DAVID B. OPPENHEIMER

*Clinical Professor of Law, the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law*

Proudman demonstrates how gender, race, class, and age intersect in the control of female sexuality and forms of gender violence. Informed by feminist and critical race perspectives, she unpicks the complexities of eradicating cultural practice through criminalisation; and illustrates how family law could be used more effectively going forwards. The book is essential reading for students, researchers, and practitioners who wish to gain well-evidenced insights into the ongoing challenge of tackling gender violence in law and culture.

JACQUELINE SCOTT

*Professor (Emerita) of Empirical Sociology, University of Cambridge*

The cultural practice of FGM is a grievous, mutilating assault upon female sexuality and reduces the full humanity of a woman. Here the accomplished barrister, Charlotte Proudman, forensically exposes its roots and purpose and the need for law and social education to end it forever.

BARONESS HELENA KENNEDY QC

What Charlotte Proudman doesn't know about the laws relating to FGM isn't worth knowing. This book demonstrates how the law has to work hand in hand with civil society if we are finally going to eliminate this abuse.

NAZIR AFZAL OBE

*Former Chief Prosecutor*

Charlotte Proudman applies her highly intelligent legal expertise, cultural sensitivity and feminist commitment to the taboo issue of the terrible suffering inflicted on women to destroy their sexuality. A 'must-read' book on the 'must end' practice of FGM.

HARRIET HARMAN

*Member of Parliament*

Female genital mutilation (FGM) has garnered significant media, political and legal attention in the UK. Despite criminalising the practice in 1985, FGM continues undetected and often underground.

This monograph provides a unique insight into survivor's attitudes towards FGM as well as the criminalisation of a culturally embedded practice. Some of the narratives might be deeply uncomfortable as women sympathise and even uphold the practice, whilst others viscerally describe the trauma and pain that they endured. Digging deeper into efforts to eliminate FGM, professionals at the coalface of the end FGM movement provide their views on whether the practice can ever be eradicated. This volume explores the key themes that emerged from the well-publicised criminal trials in the UK and the barriers that prevent the law from working effectively. One of the obstacles that are examined further is the legal double standard in criminalising FGM whilst permitting female genital cosmetic surgery, which incites hostility and anger amongst FGM-performing communities.

Whilst ending FGM is imperative, this enlightening work reflects on the unintended consequences that stem from punitive efforts to criminalise a practice performed by often Black, migrant communities. Women describe their experiences of racism and Islamophobia in a context of police surveillance and hyperbolic media narratives.

In an effort of encouraging the abandonment of FGM, this publication highlights the need for the law to be accompanied by education initiatives at a grass-root level.

DR CHARLOTTE PROUDMAN is a leader in the field of FGM law. Her research has made a significant contribution to scholarship and her practice as a barrister has had an unprecedented impact on case law and law reform in the UK. Charlotte is a Junior Research Fellow at Queens' College, Cambridge where she researches the efficacy of FGM law in the UK and she was awarded a doctorate in FGM law and policy in the UK from King's College, Cambridge. As an award-winning barrister, Charlotte has represented FGM survivors in landmark cases and she was instrumental in the introduction of FGM Protection Orders.