



# Sharia Watch UK

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## Dozens of female genital mutilation victims seen by NHS in Bradford

**Some 200 million women and girls across 30 countries have been affected by female genital mutilation (FGM). But how do survivors live with the pain of peeing, periods and childbirth?**

"The first time you notice your physicality has changed is your pee," says Hibo Wardere.

Hibo, now 46, was subjected to what is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as "type three" mutilation when she was six. This means all of her labia were cut off and she was then stitched together, leaving a tiny hole she compares to the size of a matchstick. Her clitoris was also removed.

She grew up in Somalia, where 98% of women and girls between 15 and 49 have had their genitals forcibly mutilated.

"An open wound rubbed with salt or hot chilli - it felt like that," she recalls.

"And then you realise your wee isn't coming out the way it used to come. It's coming out as droplets, and every drop was worse than the one before. This takes four or five minutes - and in that four or five minutes you're experiencing horrific pain."

Hibo came to the UK when she was 18, and within months visited a doctor to see if they could relieve the pain she experienced when she passed urine and during her periods.

Her translator didn't want to interpret her request, but the GP managed to understand.

Eventually Hibo underwent a procedure called defibulation, when the labia is opened surgically. This widened the hole and exposed her urethra. It is by no means an outright fix, and can never restore sensitive tissue that was removed, but it did make it slightly easier to urinate.

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United Kingdom (UK)

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07/12/2019

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### Summary:

Dozens of new victims of female genital mutilation have been seen by NHS services in [Bradford](#) [6] so far this year.

And the National FGM Centre is warning that more girls could be flown abroad to undergo illegal procedures during the Christmas holidays.NHS Digital figures show that victims of FGM in Bradford were seen by NHS services on around 55 occasions between January and September.Of those, around 35 were girls or women having their injuries recorded by doctors, nurses or midwives for the first time.

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**Source URL (modified on 15/03/2020):**

<https://shariawatch.org.uk/?q=content/dozens-female-genital-mutilation-victims-seen-nhs-bradford>

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<https://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/18085980.dozens-female-genital-mutilation-victims-seen-nhs-bradford/>

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