

Men's consultation meeting on FGM  
Sponsored by the Hammersmith and Fulham Primary Care Trust  
Date 6<sup>th</sup> August 2003  
Time: 4:00 – 6:00

Meeting conducted by AFRICAN WOMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION

### **1. Background to the Project.**

The campaign against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a project aimed at developing a participatory approach for sustainable empowerment of women to campaign against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) within Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Brent and Hounslow.

The campaign against Female Genital Mutilation has finally begun to attract attention in the UK and other parts of the world as the practice continues to be rampant among some African groups, particularly those that practice Genital mutilation.

The UK government together with the social services have made minor steps in recognizing the harmful effects of FGM where it relates to children. This can be investigated by the NSPCC and social workers within the community under child protection legislation.

However, the communities that still reinforce FGM do not seem to recognize the dangers and the long-term social and health implications this practice weighs on their children.

### **2. Aims and objectives of workshop**

The aim of this initial meeting was to enable African men and women to share their views, experiences and opinions on :

- The practice of FGM within their various cultures
- Propose concrete steps on how to take the campaign forward in order to benefit the younger generation

Objectives:

It was expected that by the end of the meeting, the participants would be able to:

- Identify the various types of FGM practiced all over Africa
- Determine the negative social and health consequences of this practice on women and perhaps even on men.
- Propose ways of addressing this issue within the community and especially among those who perpetuate the tradition despite the changes in spatial and temporal settings
- Give their views on how to run the subsequent workshops