



House of Commons  
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SW1A 0AA

**Sarah Champion**  
**Member of Parliament for Rotherham**

**Immediate release**  
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**Government not doing enough to prevent FGM in Britain – Sarah Champion MP**

Shadow Home Office minister Sarah Champion today challenged the government on its record on preventing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK.

In a question to Home Secretary Theresa May, Sarah said:

*“It is believed there are 170,000 women and girls in the UK who have endured Female Genital Mutilation. It is right the government has brought in legislation and funds Africa projects and trains Education and the NHS staff.*

*However, without significant UK grass-root intervention to change cultural norms, we will never prevent this horrific child abuse being committed. When will the Minister change her approach and invest in helping the community prevent FGM, rather than failing to prosecute once the crime has been committed?”*

As well as the 170,000 women and girls living with FGM, a House of Commons paper by the Home Affairs Committee revealed that in two London Boroughs almost every one in 10 girls are born to a mother who has been cut, placing them at risk and that an estimated 65,000 girls aged 13 and under are at risk of FGM in the UK.

FGM has been illegal in England and Wales since 1985. Despite this, there has only one prosecution.

In response, the Home Secretary failed to address the issue of investing in community initiatives, saying:

*“We’ve taken the question of forced genital mutilation extremely seriously. That’s why as a government we have significantly strengthened the law on FGM and issued a range of materials to support professionals.”*

ENDS

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Home Affairs Committee FGM paper -

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmhaff/201/201.pdf>

For more information, please contact:



Tom Colclough

Communications Officer to Sarah Champion MP

Member of Parliament for Rotherham

Telephone: 01709 331037

Mobile: 07891 109146

Email: [tom.colclough@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.colclough@parliament.uk)

Website: [www.sarahchampionmp.com](http://www.sarahchampionmp.com)