

# Review of: "Discussing Female Genital Mutilation by youth health care professionals in the Netherlands: facilitators and barriers"

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This article considers the experiences of youth health care professionals (YHCPs) in relation to discussing female genital mutilation (FGM) with parents and adolescent girls. It makes a positive contribution to the body of knowledge in this field, as it identifies factors that facilitate and hinder such discussions, which form part of the Dutch policy on effective FGM prevention. The authors acknowledge the limitations of the study: that it is based on participants from a single Dutch city and does not attempt to quantify the aids and barriers to conversations about FGM. Nonetheless, the findings are significant as they are based on the experiences of those who have been assigned the responsibility of detection and prevention of child abuse, including FGM. Furthermore, there is nothing to suggest that the experiences of the YHCPs would be unique to the city or country in question: the findings and recommendations, could, therefore have widespread significance. If anything, the authors could have been less modest and stressed the importance of the research more. Given the richness of the data, I would have liked to have seen more direct quotes from the participants. There are none from the managers who took part in the focus group discussion that followed the initial interviews with nurses and paediatricians. The managers suggested that some of the recommendations made by the YHCPs would not work in practice: more could have been made of these findings. I would also have appreciated a more in-depth discussion of existing literature, perhaps at the beginning of the paper, in order to better emphasise the gap that the study fills. But this does not detract from, what is, an interesting article on the practical aspects of combatting FGM.