

United Kingdom

Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act of 1985

1.- (1) Subject to section 2 below, it shall be an offence for any person-

(a) to excise, infibulate or otherwise mutilate the whole or any part of the labia majora or labia minora or clitoris of another person; or

(b) to aid, abet, counsel or procure performance by another person of any of those acts on that other person's own body.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable-

(a) on conviction on indictment, to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or both; or

(b) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum (as defined in section 74 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982) or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both.

2.- (1) Subsection (1) (a) of section 1 shall not render unlawful the performance of a surgical operation if that operation-

(a) is necessary for the physical or mental health of the person on whom it is performed and is performed by a registered medical practitioner; or

(b) is performed on a person who is in any stage of labour or has just given birth and is so performed for purposes connected with that labour or birth by-

(i) a registered medical practitioner or a registered midwife; or

(ii) a person undergoing a course of training with a view to becoming a registered medical practitioner or a registered midwife.

(2) In determining for the purposes of this section whether an operation is necessary for the mental health of a person, no account shall be taken of the effect on that person of any belief on the part of that or any other person that the operation is required as a matter of custom or ritual.