



# Cultural Relativism

## FGM & HBV

*Guest lecture delivered by:*

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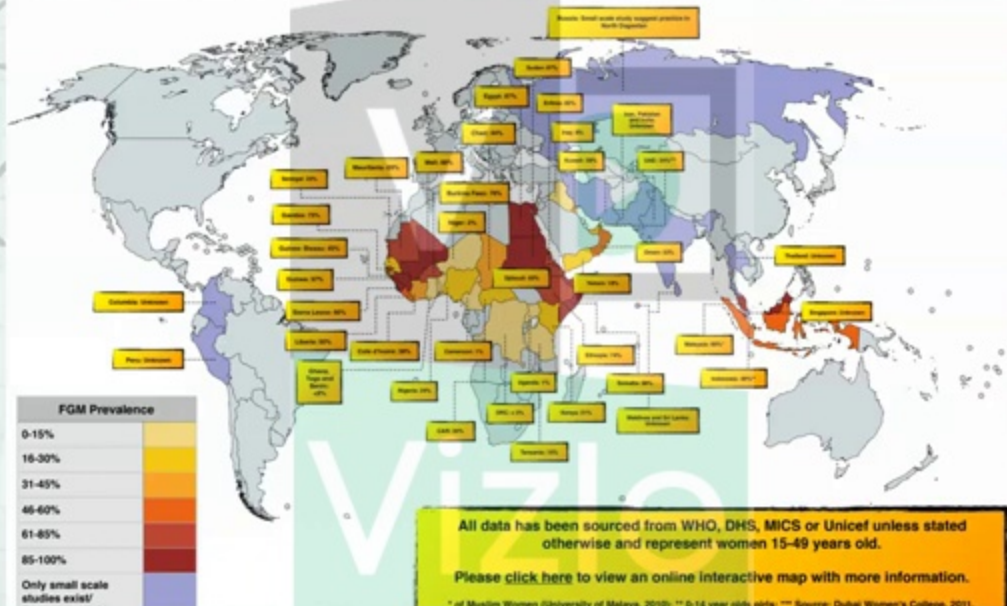
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## Honor Based Violence (HBV)

- At least 5,000 individuals are killed in the name of “honor” around the world each year (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, 2009)



## Possible Signs and Indicators

### FGM may be about to take place:

- Unexpectedly absent from school
- Female family elder visiting from country of origin
- You hear reference to FGM in conversation
- Talk about a 'special procedure' or that she is going to 'become a woman'.
- A girl may request help
- Parents state that they or a relative will take the child out of the country for a prolonged period.
- A girl may talk about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent
- Parents seeking to withdraw their children from learning about FGM

### FGM may already have taken place:

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Spending a long time in the toilet
- Urinary, menstrual or stomach problems
- Prolonged or repeated absences from school
- Noticeable behaviour change
- Requests to be excused from PE/swimming
- Girl or family member tell someone or ask for help
- May talk about pain or discomfort between her legs
- Increased emotional/psychological needs
- A girl may request help

## PREVENTION / RESPONSE

- Are Western countries legitimised to qualify a non-Western cultural practice in terms of right or wrong?
- And, if these countries are allowed to do so, is the only use of legal measure sufficient to eliminate this practice?
- The results of criminal enforcement in banning this practice diverge in many countries – is this to do with national views on multiculturalism?





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