

THE VAVENGERS

Ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and intersecting Gender-Based Violence.



Who are *The Vavengers*

We are a UK-based women and survivor-led movement working to end Female Genital Mutilation and all other forms of Violence Against Women and Girls. Led by the voices and experiences of survivors, we unite survivors, expert professionals, artists, and activists to challenge and dismantle the gender, policy, professional, and public knowledge barriers that stand in the way of ending FGM.



Strategy 2025 - 2028: A Blueprint for ending FGM and intersecting violence in our lifetime.

Mission

Our mission is two fold; expanding support for survivors to navigate the lifelong physical and psychological consequences of FGM as well as to drive systemic change through our advocacy and convening work.

Vision

We envision the first uncut generation of women and girls in our lifetime.

Ultimately, we want to live in a world where women and girls are safe, well, free and thriving.

FGM and intersectionality

We recognise that FGM does not happen in isolation. The majority of women and girls we work with report surviving between three and six forms of Gender-Based Violence throughout their lives. That's why in our strategy: We talk about FGM and the intersecting forms of violence, and we work to address these through our survivor and systems-focused approaches.

We are clear that FGM is a violation of human rights and a form of sexual violence and child abuse.

We cannot achieve our mission without ending this wider cycle of violence.



"
WHEN *women*
and girls **RISE,**
WE *all thrive.* "
"

Our Four *Strategic Pillars*

Our new strategy is designed around four strategic pillars. Our first two pillars, Connect and Campaign, are the focus of our activity and continue our core work supporting vulnerable women and girls in the UK who are survivors or at risk of FGM and intersecting VAWG. Our third pillar facilitates collaborating with national and global partners to advocate towards our shared goal of ending FGM and intersecting violence.

1 Connect

We will connect women to safe, non-judgemental, caring survivor-centric services they need so that vulnerable women and girls can safeguard themselves, their children and their communities from FGM, and all forms of VAWG.

3 Convene

We will convene to create a bridge between survivors, communities and national and global platforms to collectively influence policy and decision-making.

2 Campaign

We will campaign so UK institutions and survivor touchpoints like healthcare providers, criminal justice and immigration systems recognise FGM, forced marriage and acts of trafficking as forms of violence and have the skills and resources to actively enforce legislation and provide appropriate care and support.

4 Thrive

We will operate a vibrant, small but mighty, financially sustainable movement which expands its resource base while staying true to its survivor roots

Connect

Outcome: Vulnerable women and girls have the autonomy to safeguard themselves, their families and communities from FGM and other forms of VAWG.

Priority Area 1.1: Hubs and Safe Spaces

Priority Area 1.2: Activists and Youth Ambassadors

Priority Area 1.3: Acknowledging and documenting women's experience

Convene

Outcome: A global, all-embracing The Vavengers community of survivors and allies creates a bridge between survivors, diaspora and national and global platforms, using evidence and testimony to hold those in power positions to account for FGM and intersecting forms of VAWG

Priority Area 3.1: Specialist pro bono inputs from artists, legal and corporate professionals

Priority Area 3.2: Global Learning and Partnerships

Priority Area 3.3: Leveraging UK based power, privilege and diaspora networks.

Campaign

Outcome: UK institutions and professionals recognise FGM, forced marriage and trafficking as forms of violence and modern slavery, and actively enforce legislation.

Priority Area 2.1: FGM Awareness and tracking in the health system

Priority Area 2.2: Criminal Justice and immigration systems

Priority Area 2.3: Influencing and raising public awareness

Thrive

Outcome: A vibrant, small but mighty, financially sustainable The Vavengers organisation

Priority Area 4.1: A diverse high performing team

Priority Area 4.2: Systems which keep people safe and reduce risk

Priority Area 4.3: Diversify income and resources