National and International Laws on Harmful Practices (e.g., FGM)

1. National Laws (United Kingdom)

Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as amended by the Serious Crime Act 2015)

- Criminalises **FGM in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland**.

- Introduces **FGM Protection Orders (FGMPOs)** to prevent FGM.

- Criminalises **failure to protect a child from FGM**.

Children Act 1989 & 2004

- Recognises **FGM as a form of child abuse**.

- Grants authorities the power to intervene and protect children at risk.

Serious Crime Act 2015

- Introduces a **mandatory reporting duty** for professionals (e.g., teachers, social workers, healthcare professionals) to report cases of FGM in children to the police.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

- Recognises **FGM as a form of violence against women and girls (VAWG)**.

- Expands protection for victims of gender-based violence.

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2. International Laws & UN Principles

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948 (Articles 3 & 5)

- Declares **FGM a violation of human rights and a form of torture**.

- Article 5 states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979

- Calls for the **eradication of harmful practices** such as FGM (Articles 5 & 12).

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989

- Recognises FGM as a violation of children's rights to:

    o **Protection from violence** (Article 19).

    o **Health and well-being** (Article 24).

- o **Freedom from cruel treatment and torture** (Article 37).

United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)

- Defines **violence against women and girls (VAWG)** to include harmful practices such as FGM (Article 2).

Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, 2011)

- Recognises **FGM as a human rights violation** (Article 38).

- Requires member states to **criminalise, prevent, and protect victims of FGM**.