



The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations (CTPSR)

Researchers in CTPSR have sought to address the prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) and the significant challenges of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The research seeks to understand beliefs and societal norms in the context of FGM in the EU and support behavioural change in vulnerable communities. A second strand focuses on enhancing community resilience to sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Uganda. The third strand investigated the quality, provision and appropriateness of policy responses and services for survivors of SGBV in UK and post-conflict countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

These projects found that FGM is frequently not an individual decision made by women but a community-led decision. An adaptable toolkit for advocacy groups and communities was developed, enabling positive change in the existing service provision for girls and women in local communities in Coventry, nationally and across Europe. The research also informed the web-based application 'Petals for Young People' in 2015, which was later adapted for professionals. This one-stop shop provides up-to-date information for practitioners and policymakers to better understand and respond to FGM in the UK, and internationally. This application won a Gold London Design Award in 2016.

Impacts of the research are closely aligned with the core aim of reducing the prevalence of FGM and the empowerment of women and girls: the heart of Sustainable Development Goal 5. Through the work of the research team in improving understanding of complex social norms in vulnerable communities, it has been possible to develop support groups, promote community engagement and provide training to support FGM-affected communities. The research has led to raised awareness of the issue, an important step towards shifting public opinion, changing attitudes and facilitating behaviour change.

BENEFITS

1. A web app on FGM for young people did not exist, knowing that the majority of young people communicate via mobile phones the app allows significant reach to those most in need of information.
2. The app has evolved to provide further support for teachers, social workers, police and health professionals demonstrating the essential need for this type of support within public facing roles.
3. Although FGM is illegal in the UK there are still a significant number of girls undergoing the procedures, the app is designed to get information to those most at risk who had nowhere else to go for support.

CONCLUSIONS

A fundamental aspect of developing the app has been to work within the communities affected by FGM this has included within the UK and abroad, over many years. This has provided an in depth understanding into the reasons for FGM and how best to develop information and support to prevent it.

<https://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/research-directories/spotlight-on/2015/coventry-university-launches-new-app-to-tackle-fgm/>