

Patricia Olukemi Ajayi

Patricia Olukemi Ajayi is 51 who was born in Nigerian and is now a British citizen. Patricia studied mass communication and was a journalist in Nigeria before relocating to UK 25 years ago. She graduated with BSc (Hons) Nursing Practice from the University of Manchester and has worked as a registered Mental Health nurse work in a Mental Health Rehabilitation and assessment unit for the last 10 years with Cheshire and Wirral NHS Trust. Patricia has worked in various areas of mental health including working in a forensic unit

Patricia was motivated by her personal experience as an FGM survivor and works towards the eradication of FGM and supporting other survivors to empower them to speak out about FGM and seek health service provision. As an African who experienced this barbaric act 44 years ago, Patricia feels that it is important to share her personal experience with people so that they know how it has affected her physically and emotionally. The psychological effect of FGM is not only disabling but also has a lasting effect. It affects all areas of your psychosocial and sexual health.

Patricia is now involved in working with psychotherapist to provide emotional support to survivors and is working with Angie Marriott to producing an FGM survivors Psychological Support Pathway. Patricia has excellent understanding of the long term physical and psychological aspects of FGM and has vast expertise in understanding clients in this field. Patricia is working towards ensuring that professionals including health visitors, midwives, social workers, psychologists, work hand in hand with the law enforcement agencies in order to raise awareness and punish those who are still involved in this old-age cruel practice.