



Llinell Gymorth Live Fear  
Byw Heb Ofn Free Helpline

**0808 80 10 800**

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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



# Virginity Testing and Hymenoplasty are now **ILLEGAL**

It is now illegal to carry out, offer or aid and abet virginity testing or hymenoplasty in any part of the UK, as part of the Health and Care Act 2022.

**Virginity testing and hymenoplasty are forms of violence against women and girls, and are a form of 'honour-based' abuse.**

Women and girls are coerced, forced and shamed into undergoing these procedures to fulfil the requirement that a woman remains 'pure' before marriage.

However, there is no known examination that can prove whether a woman is a virgin.

These practices can be degrading and intrusive. They can lead to extreme psychological trauma, and can provoke conditions including anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. They can also be physically harmful.

These practices often take place behind closed doors.

Victims of these practices can often take many years to come forward. As this practice is illegal, women **CANNOT** consent.

As of July 2022, these offences now carry a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine.

We want to empower victims and communities to protect women, girls and any persons at risk of harm from these practices in Wales.

**If you, or you are concerned someone you know could be at risk of virginity testing or hymenoplasty, you can report your concerns, and gain advice and support from:**

**Police: 999** as an emergency or **101** for your local force if the victim is not in immediate danger.

**Live Fear Free Helpline: 0808 80 10 800**

**BAWSO: 0800 731 8147**

**KARMA NIRVANA: 0800 5999 247**

**Forced Marriage Unit**

**Your local GP, nurse, hospital, Social Services or education provider**