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# FGM travel ban 'keeping family apart for 16 years'

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No FGM case has reached the Court of Appeal before  
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A travel ban imposed for 15 years on a child because of concerns that she was at risk of being taken abroad for female genital mutilation is to be challenged in the Court of Appeal. It is the first time an FGM case has reached the court.

The travel ban was imposed on the child, referred to in court as X, who was born in 2016 to a white English mother and an Egyptian father who lives in Egypt and cannot join the mother and X because of visa issues.

The order was imposed in the High Court by Mrs Justice Russell in November last year, prohibiting X's parents from "removing, seeking to remove, or instructing

Ravi Kaur Mahey, the family director at Duncan Lewis Solicitors who is representing the mother, said: "The making of the FGM order was never an issue for the mother in this case and this was not challenged in the appeal. She is firmly opposed to FGM and remains committed to ensuring her daughter is protected from harm.

"The issue here was the blanket travel ban the court imposed, preventing the child from travelling until 2032. This denied the child and her parents the chance of any family life together as a unit. It is clear that the High Court judge did not explore in detail all other options which would allow family reunification, even if for short periods of time."

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