



CONCEPT NOTE

ART FOR ACTION: ENDING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Female genital mutilation is a human rights violation of worldwide concern. Annually, three million girls are at risk of being cut. The European Parliament estimates that 500,000 women and girls are living with the life-long consequences of FGM and another 180,000 are at risk each year in European Union countries.

Women and girls who live with the scars of the practice, both physical and psychological, may not receive appropriate and/or equal standards of care in different parts of Europe. Similarly, women, girls and their families fleeing their homes and the risk of being mutilated may be granted different levels of international protection across Europe because of the lack of training and guidelines. Additionally, EU countries which already have laws and initiatives tackling FGM are encountering gaps in prevention and protection measures because of the limited available data.

The numerous European Parliament resolutions and commitments from the Council and Commission highlight the EU's clear role in providing vision and strategic direction to fill the gaps in protection. The European Institute for Gender Equality is engaged in a study providing an overview of the practice of FGM across EU member states and Croatia. The study will map existing laws, policy and practices on the matter and make recommendations to national and EU decision-makers.

Finally, as the world's largest donor and a key interlocutor with countries where FGM is prevalent, the EU can share experience and hold non-EU countries to account for their international commitments to end this violence. To be credible in its approach, the EU must develop coherent internal and external policies on FGM. The recently adopted UN resolution on FGM gives us an added impetus to focus on the EU's future path.

It is therefore time for Europe to boost its action to end FGM and protect women and girls.

A strategic vision of how the EU can tackle FGM is crucial. This vision must be holistic to ensure all stakeholders and situations are addressed. This comprehensive approach must also be embedded in the principles of human rights, equality and non-discrimination for it to be effective, impactful and sustainable.

The seminar on 27 February 2013 will bring together high-level decision-makers from the EU institutions, national-level decision-makers, stakeholders and experts to present experiences in different countries and address the EU's actions so far. The discussions will help us identify existing promising practices, tools and methods.

With these experiences, we expect to raise awareness about prevention, protection, prosecution and provision of services relating to the practice of FGM. We also hope that the decision-makers will be compelled by experts' arguments to bolster their commitment through holistic, empowering and visionary action.

- Find out the END FGM European Campaign's objectives of the [here](#)