



UNAF campaigns on  
Female Genital Mutilation  
+ working with the media

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*Cultures, Gender and Sexualities*  
*– UNAF*



# *Cultures, Gender, Sexualities – UNAF*



Cultures, Gender,  
Sexualities  
CGS  
UNAF

**10 years working for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights with migrant families**

**Pioneer and reference NGO working for Female Genital Mutilation prevention and multidisciplinary attention to women and girls survivors**

# Overall approaches

## Human Rights

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a violation of human rights.

## Gender

FGM is one of many manifestations of unequal gender relations across the globe, and is a form of gender based violence against women and girls.

## Intercultural

When two or more cultures interact, it is important to, **wbuild a space through dialogue that is respectful and aware of the differences** which encompasses both belief systems, care, values, etc.

## Community

**FGM occurs in a community context**, with different agents involved. The feeling of belonging to a group and social pressure are key.

# Female Genital Mutilation



*The subject of FGM arouses debates, controversy, emotions and reactions. Because it **encompasses** a variety of areas, from **human rights, women's rights, body and gender-based violence to health, tradition and culture**, it is a particularly sensitive matter to tackle.*

# How to communicate on Female Genital Mutilation

FGM is a difficult subject, so it is essential that **when discussing, writing or talking** about the practice, **we are mindful of the words we use**, in order to speak about it with sensitivity.

**Using inaccurate or stigmatising language** when talking about FGM **can spread misconceptions and even be detrimental** to both women, girls and communities directly affected by it.





## África dice no a la mutilación genital femenina

El Parlamento de la Unión Africana avala la prohibición de la ablación,



2016 - 18:48 CEST

**ABOLICIÓN: MUTILACIÓN GENITAL FEMENINA**



Recuerdo hasta el sonido de la cuchilla cuando cortaba mi piel y durante mucho tiempo me levantaba por la noche gritando sin saber por qué».

Un grupo de...

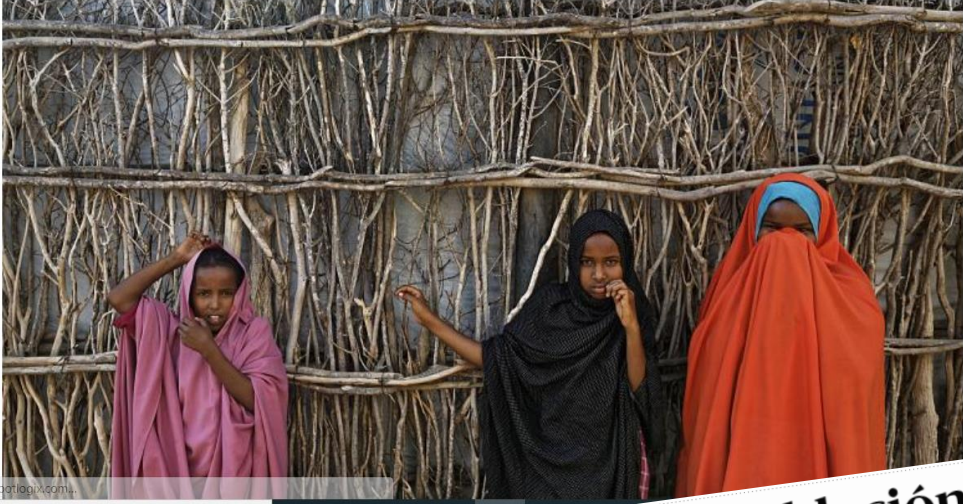
## Joyce, víctima de la mutilación genital femenina: "Pensé que me moría"

En la actualidad, se calcula que tres millones de niñas son sometidas cada año a la mutilación genital femenina en algún país del mundo



## Asha Ismail, víctima de mutilación genital: "Jamás olvidaré ese dolor, se queda para siempre"

Por **Laura Llach** • última actualización: 07/02/2020



## Hawa Touré, superviviente de ablación: "En la noche de bodas te acuestas con tu marido y el dolor es terrible, pero tienes que aguantar"

La activista mauritana reside en Fuerteventura y ha hecho de su vivencia su lucha a través de la asociación Diambe, dedicada a sensibilizar sobre las consecuencias de la mutilación genital femenina: problemas vaginales, sexuales, depresión o ansiedad

En el mundo, más de tres millones de mujeres y niñas son sometidas a esta práctica: "Las secuelas de la ablación son eternas, yo la sufrí con diez años y no lo olvidaré jamás"

Touré ha hecho de Canarias su campo de batalla por ser un territorio en el que conviven personas procedentes de países donde se ejecuta la escisión: "Muchas mujeres africanas viven aquí y cuando van de vacaciones a su país aprovechan para mutilar a las niñas"

### VIOLENCIA SEXUAL ▶

## Mutilación genital femenina, una "violencia invisibilizada" que supone un riesgo para 3.652 niñas en España

- "Cuando se invisibiliza, se maltrata y se estigmatiza a las mujeres, se las revictimiza", señala la antropóloga Adriana Kaplan, autora del informe 'La mutilación genital femenina en España'
- Uno de los principales problemas que acarrea esta práctica tiene que ver con las familias que acuden a su país de origen para llevarla a cabo y no regresan a España para evitar la persecución judicial de los padres



explica esta vivencia cómo si le hubiese ocurrido ayer, recuerda cada detalle, cada gesto e que con cinco años la marcó para siempre. «Ha pasado mucho tiempo pero yo lo revivo cada día.

TOOLKIT



**End FGM**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK



HOW TO **TALK** ABOUT



FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION





# FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION : **WHAT** ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?



*According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) definition, **female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons***



# NAMING - Female Genital Mutilation



Use the term Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), as it is the internationally agreed upon term



Don't use misleading terms, such as "circumcision".  
Don't use specific terms, such as "infibulation", to refer to all forms of FGM

Circumcision


Cut

Ablation

Genital surgery


Purification

# **Understanding global context: FGM gender based violence, control of women bodies and roles in society**



✓ FGM is a violation of human rights and a specific form of gender-based violence. FGM is only one of the many practices performed to control women's bodies and roles in society

✗ Don't portray FGM with a sense of cultural otherness, that reinforces stereotypes and misunderstandings



✓ Recognise FGM abandonment as a feminist issue. FGM aims at controlling women's bodies and sexualities. Both women and men play a role in the continuation or abandonment of the practice

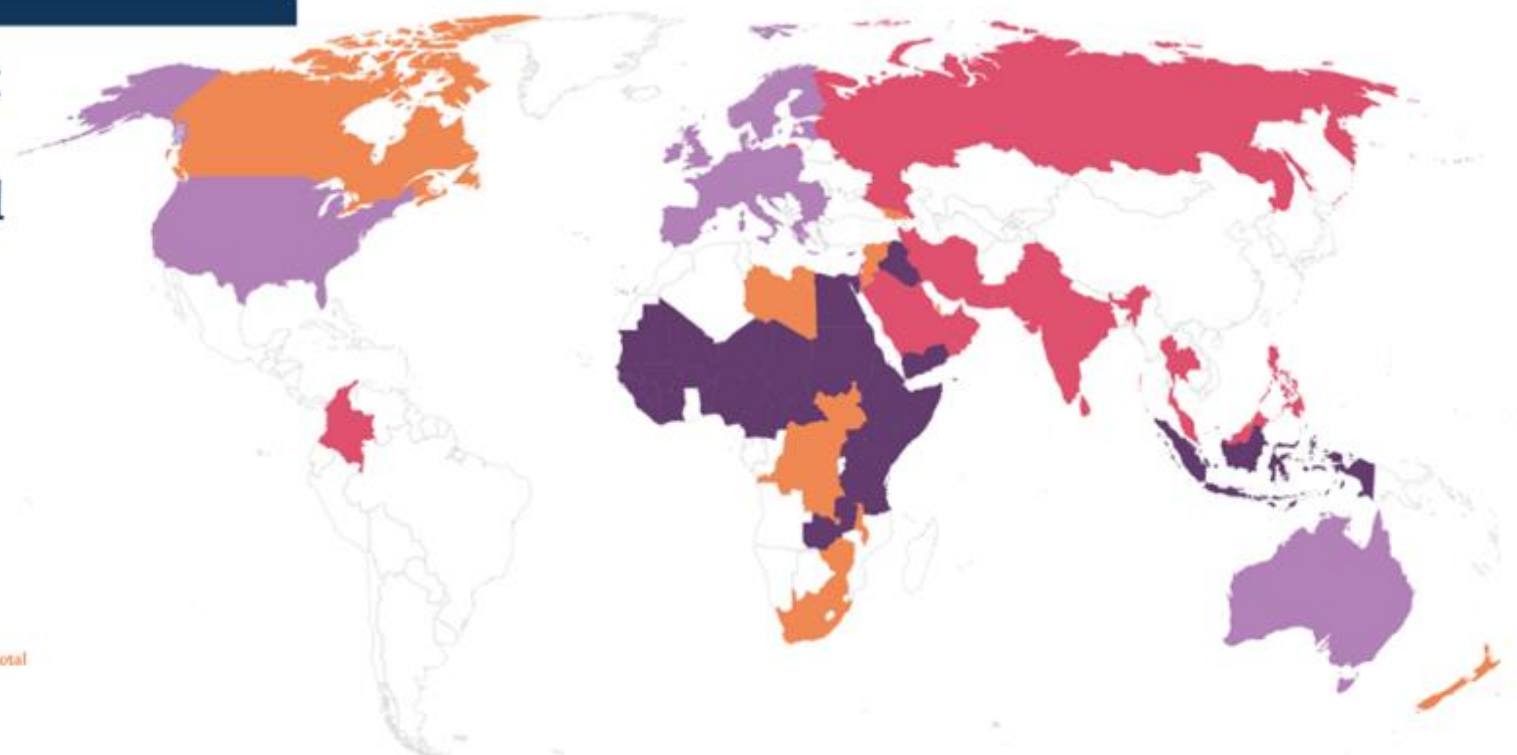
✗ Don't label FGM as a "women's issue"

# WHERE: FGM IS GLOBAL

## FGM/C IS GLOBAL

FGM/C is present in at least 92 countries around the world.

-  CATEGORY 1  
Countries with nationally representative surveys on FGM/C
-  CATEGORY 2  
Countries with indirect estimates on FGM/C
-  CATEGORY 3  
Countries with small-scale studies on FGM/C
-  CATEGORY 4  
Countries where media reports and anecdotal evidence refer to occurrence of FGM/C

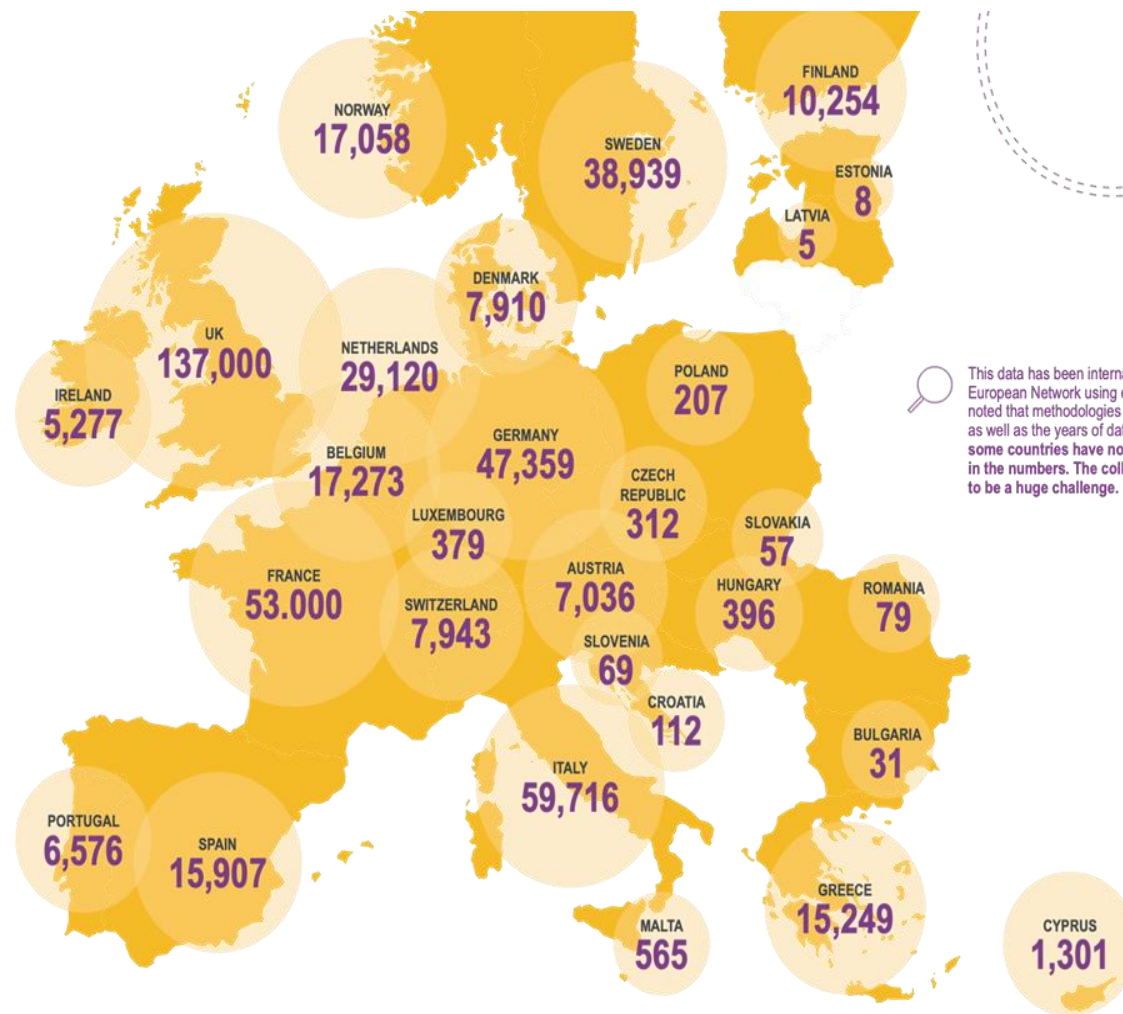


Source: FGM/C: A Call For A Global Response (2020) Equality Now, End FGM EU Network, US End FGM/C Network

# Survivors of FGM living in Europe



## SURVIVORS OF FGM LIVING IN EUROPE



This data has been internally gathered by the End FGM European Network using existing studies. It should be noted that methodologies used for the studies differ as well as the years of data collection. In the meantime, some countries have noted significant increases in the numbers. The collection of data continues to be a huge challenge.


### Sources

- Estimates of first-generation women and girls with female genital mutilation in the European Union, Norway and Switzerland, 2016
- Prévalence des mutilations génitales féminines en Belgique, 2018
- Excision et Handicap (ExH) : Mesure des lésions et traumatismes et évaluation des besoins en chirurgie réparatrice, 2009
- Eine empirische Studie zu Genitalverstümmelung in Deutschland, 2017
- Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales: National and local estimates, 2015
- Netherlands - Prevalence, incidence and determinants, 2013
- Mutilação Genital Feminina: prevalências, dinâmicas socioculturais e recomendações para a sua eliminação, 2015
- Finnish Action plan for the prevention of female genital mutilation (FGM), 2019

# Respectful language avoiding judging and stereotypes

✓ Use comprehensive, respectful and non-stigmatising language

✗ Don't fuel hate speech using words such as "barbaric", "disgusting", "savage" that are offensive and judgmental for affected communities. Do not use sensationalising headlines or terms



✓ Use the term "affected communities" as opposed to "practising communities" because it encompasses those who wish to leave the practice behind

✗ Don't assume that everyone in an affected community feels the same way about FGM

# **Survivors not victims: empowerment, accuracy and non-stigmatisation**



Women and girls who have undergone FGM are survivors, not victims. Acknowledge survivors' resilience and strength



Don't portray survivors as victims

**LISTEN**

**AND**

**RESPECT**



Let survivors tell you who they are and what they do today. Listen and respect them



Don't reduce survivors to their traumas and their pasts

# Let people own their own narrative



Let people own their narrative and understand that every survivor has a different experience



Don't assume you already know their story, don't assume all stories are the same



Believe survivors when they tell their stories and treat affected communities with respect: they are the experts of their own experience



Don't minimise survivors experiences when they tell their stories




Use the terms the person you are talking to prefers to use, as many terms are used worldwide to refer to FGM



Don't use judging language and avoid alienation




# SAFE ENVIRONMENT – RESPECT BOUNDARIES



✓ Create a positive and safe environment when talking with a member of an affected communities


✗ Don't play a survivor in opposition to her community. Don't judge a survivor's family for practising FGM



✓ Respect boundaries

✗ Don't be intrusive and don't ask questions that might re-traumatise the survivor. Do not ask personal questions, or intimacy-based questions

# Positive stories- Positive images

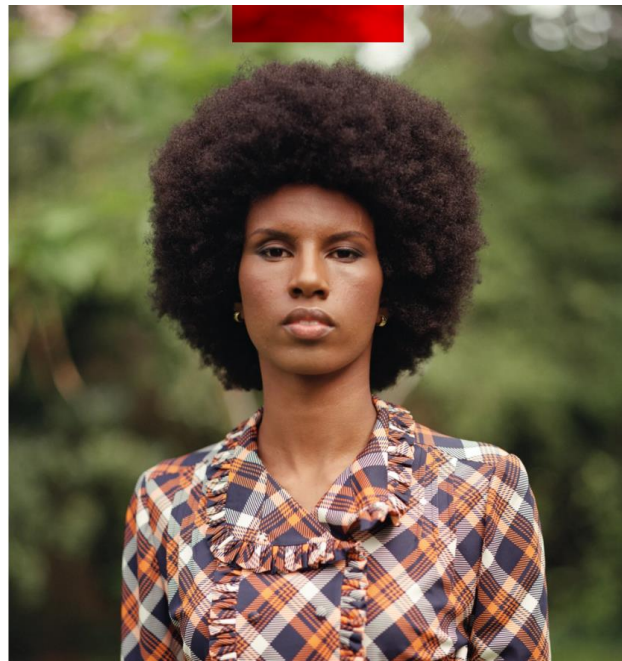


✓ Tell positive stories as a way of promoting FGM abandonment. Show that change is possible and can be inspiring to others

✗ Don't forget many people and communities have abandoned FGM and cultural norms change over time. Change is possible and is happening

✓ Use positive images

✗ Don't use shocking images that risk causing re-traumatisation of FGM survivors and of affected communities. Don't use graphic images or details such as blades or blood



ACTIVISMO

## Amal Hussein, una joven voz para entender (y combatir) la mutilación genital femenina

—  
POR MARIO XIMÉNEZ  
3 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2020

Esta refugiada política somalí, nacida hace 24 años, coordina junto a mujeres de su familia la ONG *Save a Girl, Save a Generation*. ¿Su objetivo? Que la MGF (Mutilación Genital Femenina) sea una práctica erradicada para las mujeres que la sufren alrededor del mundo

## Mutilación genital femenina: ¿dónde se practica? ¿por qué? ¿qué implica?

Sociedad Actualización: 12-02-2020 - 21:10  
Creado: 11-02-2020 - 15:44

Más de 200 millones de niñas y mujeres han sufrido mutilación genital femenina, según la ONU. El Parlamento Europeo quiere ayudar a acabar con esta práctica.



## La mutilación genital, el riesgo al que se enfrentan más de 3.600 niñas en España

- El mayor riesgo está en viajes a países de origen de familias que no están concienciadas contra la ablación
- La Delegación del Gobierno contra la violencia sobre las mujeres y la Fundación Wassu-UAB han realizado un informe de ámbito nacional

13.11.2020 | 18:05 horas Por YOLANDA SOBERO



Asha Ismail: «La mutilación genital femenina no es una cuestión religiosa, es machismo puro y duro»

## “Sin las africanas no se puede acabar con la mutilación genital”

La activista keniana Asha Ismail defiende la escucha y la comprensión como primeros pasos para erradicar esta práctica



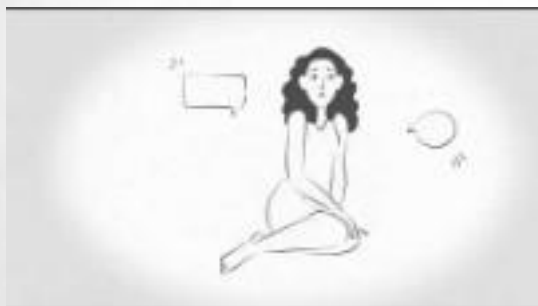
# How To Talk About FGM



Ver más ta...



Compartir







**THANK YOU!**

*¡Síguenos en  
nuestras redes!*



Salud sexual en  
clave cultural



@saludsexcultura

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