



## **End FGM European Network Seminar**

### **“Building bridges between the EU and FGM countries of origin”**

**30 May 2017**

***VENUE: Mundo B Conference Room, Rue d'Edinbourg 26, Brussels, Belgium***

### **PROGRAMME**

#### **Background**

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Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a human rights violation that has existed over centuries and is strongly linked to social norms shaped by tradition, culture and religion.

According to the latest UNICEF statistical report, while the exact number of girls and women worldwide who have undergone FGM remains unknown, at least 200 million girls and women in 30 countries, mostly but not solely in Africa, have been subjected to the practice.

FGM is now recognised as a global issue, which affects all continents, including Europe. FGM has emerged as an issue in the European Union (EU) due to migration from countries affected by the practice – migrants' countries of origin – and it is now practiced by several communities residing in the EU, which have strong transnational linkages both within the EU and beyond.

The decision to cut or not to cut a girl is often not an individual one: families and communities both in the country of origin and in countries of residence have a large influence on it. At the same time, migrants returning to their country of origin can represent a challenge for FGM abandonment programmes both in a positive and negative way. Sometimes members of affected migrant communities may encourage communities to perpetuate or maintain traditional practices like FGM, in some cases due to the lack of awareness of the social change that might have occurred in the country of origin since they left. In other cases, migrant organisations, as well as migrants who return to their countries of origin can play an important role in showing how communities can shift from FGM practices without losing their sense of belonging and cultural identity.

Therefore, the practice must be addressed in bi- and multilateral discussions among countries and stakeholders and requires the development of measures with a cross-border dimension and collaboration between stakeholders in the EU and in countries of origin.

One of the End FGM European Network's strategic priorities is to address the cross-border transcontinental nature of FGM.

**The End FGM European Network is dedicating its 2017 annual campaign to the theme of Building Bridges in order to fine tune its building bridges approach and pursue it with concrete actions and initiatives.**

The End FGM's definition of Building Bridges in tackling FGM is:

*"Synergies and cooperation between actors from different sectors in EU countries of residence and in countries of origin to implement actions, policies and legal frameworks to end FGM tackling the transnational nature of this practice".*

## Aims of the seminar

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The seminar will provide the opportunities for different stakeholders in the FGM field to:

- Discuss the concept of the Building Bridges approach
- Explore promising practises
- Learn from each other
- Share ideas and recommendations on how to address challenges and brainstorm on the way forward

End FGM will take stock of these discussions to fine tune its Building Bridges strategy and initiate concrete actions to implement it.

## Audience

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We welcome CSOs, service providers and practitioners, researchers, experts, lawyers, academics, civil servants, policy-makers, activists and any other persons working in the field of female genital mutilation to attend.

## Registration

Please register via this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/29D6RMV> by the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. We will send you a confirmation.

For any further information, you can contact the End FGM Secretariat at [info@endfgm.eu](mailto:info@endfgm.eu) or +32 (0) 2 893 0907

Can't make the seminar? Watch the [Livestream](#) on our [Facebook](#) page.

## PROGRAMME

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<b>8.00 – 9.00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9.00</b>	<b>Opening</b> Liuska Sanna, End FGM European Network
<b>09.15</b>	<b>The “Video Filmed letters” project - FGM exchanges between Fulani migrants in Belgium and their community in Velingara, Senegal</b> Seydou Niang, GAMS Belgium
<b>10.00</b>	<b>An institutional perspective from the European Commission</b> Anne Van-Nistelrooij, DG JUST / Maxence Daublain, DG DEVCO
<b>10.30</b>	<b>Building bridges with local partners to catalyse change in rights of girls and young women in Tanzania</b> Naana Otoo-Oyortey, FORWARD UK
<b>11.15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11.30</b>	<b>Preventing FGM in the EU through empowerment and mobilisation of Migrant Women: the application of R-A Methodology in the AFTER Project</b> Rossana Scaricabarozzi, ActionAid International Italy
<b>12.00</b>	<b>Building a national action plan (NAP) for the abandonment of FGM in Somalia</b> Ifrah Ahmed & Louise Dawson, Ifrah Foundation Somalia/Ireland
<b>13.00-14.00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14.00</b>	<b>Building bridges between Africa and Europe to tackle FGM. A pilot experience</b> Clara Caldera, AIDOS Italy / Aurélie Desrumaux, Equipop France / Stéphanie Florquin, GAMS Belgium
<b>15.30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>15.45</b>	<b>Using Communication to Support Social Change in Africa and the Diaspora</b> Kékéli Kpognon, The Girl Generation: Together to End FGM
<b>16.15</b>	<b>Media building bridges - The Guardian Campaign</b> Naimah Hassan
<b>16.45</b>	<b>Conclusions</b> , Liuska Sanna, End FGM European Network



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**Metro : Porte de Namur, Trône**

**Bus : 71, 59, 64, 34, 80**

