

# Annual Report 2016



**End FGM**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK



# The End FGM European Network

**The Vision of End FGM EU is** a world free of all forms of FGM where women and girls are empowered and can fully enjoy their human rights.

**The Mission of End FGM EU is** to be the driving force of the European movement to end all forms of FGM, joining the forces of communities and civil society organisations, and building synergies and cooperation with all relevant actors in Europe and globally.

## Photography

Cover photo by Annie Spratt

P 1: Photo 'This little light of mine' by Gynelle Leon

P 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 19: Photos by Paolo Patruno



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# A message from our President

In 2016, End FGM EU was in its second year of existence. While 2015 had the usual hurdles linked to any start-up, 2016 was a year in which the organisation was further consolidated and more energy could be directed towards delivering the core of the work programme.

With an almost fully staffed secretariat, an enormous amount of work was done, to the great satisfaction of the stakeholders. Collecting positive feedback via independent evaluation, the stakeholders were overall very satisfied with the work of End FGM EU in relation to communication, awareness-raising, capacity building and policy and advocacy work. The materials produced from guides to website information, and resources, are seen to be very valuable. Very importantly, stakeholders esteem that End FGM EU has been effective in relation to achieving the planned impact of its programme.

The End FGM European Network is seen as a one-stop shop for mutual exchange and learning experiences where expertise is being shared and built. As such, 2016 was a very successful year for us. Our work programme for 2016 focused on four main areas:

- ▶ Contributing to the development of EU law/policies and to their implementation,
- ▶ Building the capacity of our member organisations and of stakeholders
- ▶ Raising awareness on FGM among the general public
- ▶ Improving our organisational capacity.



These areas were addressed through activities belonging to an annual operating grant and to two EU projects: United to End FGM and CHANGE Plus.

End FGM EU furthered their advocacy work at EU level which was supported at national level by their members through their engagement with national decision makers. This was reinforced and supported by our communication work and public mobilization at key moments.

This Annual Report provides information on our work and outlines the progress made in the year 2016.

**Naana Otoo-Oyortey**

End FGM European Network President



# The End FGM European Network

## What we do



We **INFORM** so that everyone in Europe and beyond is aware of the existence of FGM and of its consequences on women and girls



We **SUPPORT** and build the capacity of our members with training, tools, information and resources



We **EMPOWER** rights holders – they are the true experts and change agents!



We **ADVOCATE** for policies, laws and funding so that those fighting FGM have the proper tools and resources



We **NETWORK** with individuals and organisations who can contribute to end FGM so that they join the movement and take action



We **FACILITATE** development and exchange of knowledge, lessons learned, evidence and promising practices



We are the key **RESOURCE** centre on FGM in Europe for activists, professionals, institutions and citizens



# Organisational Development

Membership grew in 2016 from 15 to 18 members with the addition of:

- ▶ Lessan (<http://www.lessan.eu/verein/>)
- ▶ WADI (<https://wadi-online.de/>)
- ▶ The ICRH (<http://icrh.org/>)



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The GA is the governing body of End FGM EU, meeting once per year to discuss the programme, finances and membership, and vote on important matters.

## BOARD

The Board met 4 times in 2016. Activities' implementation and finances were regularly reviewed through periodic reports prepared by the Secretariat.



**President**  
**Naana Otoo-Oyortey**  
Executive Director  
Forward UK



**Secretary**  
**Christina Kaili**  
Project Coordinator, Mediterranean  
Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS),  
Cyprus



**Vice-President**  
**Clara Caldera**  
Programme Officer  
AIDOS, Italy



**Member**  
**Zahra Naleie**  
Senior FGM Project Manager,  
Federation of Somali Associations  
in the Netherlands (FSAN)



**Treasurer**  
**Fabienne Richard**  
Director, GAMS Belgium



**Member**  
**Aurélie Hamelin-Desrumaux**  
Project Manager  
Equilibres & Populations, France

## SECRETARIAT (2016)

Director  
Policy and Advocacy Officer  
Administrative & Finance Officer  
Communications Officer  
Communications Intern  
Advocacy Intern

**Liuska Sanna**  
**Natalie Kontoulis**  
**Florence Boivin**  
**Lisa O' Leary**  
**Panagiota Toumazou**  
**Leslie Van-Liempd**

# Impact



- ▶ The recruitment of End FGM EU Ambassadors in 2016 strengthens the voice of those affected by FGM at EU level. The ambassadors are either survivors and /or representatives of the communities and activists within their community. Their involvement in working with us enables a more direct role of rights-holders in EU level debates.
- ▶ With the publication of our position paper 'How to Talk About FGM' ([http://www.endfgm.eu/editor/files/2017/05/How\\_to\\_Talk\\_about\\_FGM\\_FINAL\\_\\_position\\_paper\\_v4\\_2.pdf](http://www.endfgm.eu/editor/files/2017/05/How_to_Talk_about_FGM_FINAL__position_paper_v4_2.pdf)) we further our work towards empowering those affected by FGM by offering alternative narratives and messaging which are positive and non-stigmatising.
- ▶ EU and national policy makers and stakeholders benefited from the End FGM EU's contribution to policy consultations and of information we provided, evidence, good practices and resources.
- ▶ Networks of professionals in contact with women and girls at risk of or living with FGM benefited from the our dissemination work on tools and resources for professionals and from the advocacy work targeted towards making training for them available.
- ▶ Media and general public have increased their awareness and understanding of FGM as a form of VAWG and have received alternative narratives, language and visuals thanks to the our communication incentive that focuses on a holistic approach when communicating human rights, child rights, empowerment and non-stigmatisation.
- ▶ End FGM EU members received information and communications on legal and policy developments, FGM-related initiatives, news, resources, events. Moreover, their capacity increased thanks to the training sessions and conference we organised and the tools we produced (guides, infographics, etc.).

# Advocacy



## CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EU LAW/POLICIES

End FGM EU supported the development, implementation and monitoring of policies and legislation related to FGM and VAWG (violence against women and girls) at EU, national and international levels, through the mobilization of the members and engagement with decision-makers and stakeholders. Through the launch of the End FGM Ambassadors Programme, representatives of communities – survivors, girls at risk, men – were trained as advocates for change and supported our advocacy and communication work.



We continued to raise awareness of FGM and called on the EU and Member States to implement the EC Communication Towards the elimination of FGM, to become parties to the Istanbul Convention and to transpose the Directives on Asylum and Victims' Rights. By providing evidence-based analysis and recommendations, we also ensured that FGM was adequately addressed in EU policy and legislative frameworks on gender equality,



children's rights, justice and home affairs and in the EU external action. In particular, we continued to actively engage with the European Parliament, the European Commission and the rotating presidency of the EU to ensure that these commitments are upheld by member states.

Our specific focus was on our annual campaign theme '**Asylum**' and the implementation of our asylum strategy.

A position paper was produced on EU asylum: FGM in Asylum Directives on Qualification, Procedures and reception conditions ([http://www.endfgm.eu/editor/files/2017/03/End\\_FGM\\_Asylum\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.endfgm.eu/editor/files/2017/03/End_FGM_Asylum_Guide.pdf)) highlighting the relevant provisions in the Asylum Procedures, Reception Conditions and Qualification Directives. The guide aims to explain the application of the three asylum directives in an accessible manner to civil society

representatives working with those affected by FGM. An EU conference was also organised on 'Gender-related Vulnerabilities in the EU asylum procedures: Spotlight on FGM'.

The conference aimed to explore and discuss the challenges that women and girls affected by FGM face in accessing protection in Europe, address the role of credibility assessment, Country of Origin Information and the scarce availability of gender-sensitive training for professionals, and share promising practices that Member States and professionals could replicate.



Finally, we continued collaborating with End FGM EU champions in all EU institutions and engaged dialogue with new potential ones. We also strengthened partnerships with stakeholders contributing to the EU agenda, such as UN Agencies and the Council of Europe as well as with other stakeholder groups like European associations representing women, children, victims and professionals from different sectors.

## CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC AND POLICY DEBATES

End FGM EU made various contributions to public policies and debates surrounding issues relating to FGM in 2016 including: prevention of violence against women, prevention of violence against children, forced marriage, monitoring gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and country and origin information relating to FGM.

Our contributions ranged from consultation responses and amendments to parliamentary reports to internal, roundtable debates with political groups and alliance building initiatives. These contribution opportunities were hosted by various related bodies and organisations including:

- ▶ Member of the **UN Advisory Panel** contributing to FGM/C policy guidelines
- ▶ **EIGE** Consultation Meeting on good practices for the collection of administrative data on violence against women
- ▶ **WHO** Consultation Meeting on an interagency package for the prevention of violence against children
- ▶ **Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Human Rights** Drafting Group on Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage
- ▶ **UN Women** consultation "The SDGs - Monitoring Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls"
- ▶ **ACP- EU** Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment (two sessions)
- ▶ **European Commission** Member States Gender Experts meeting
- ▶ **EASO** meeting to brief national asylum experts on country of origin information relating to FGM



# Communications



Communication is a vital element in raising awareness of FGM as a form of VAGW and the need to adopt a human rights-based approach to FGM. Our programme aimed at raising-awareness of European and national decision-makers, relevant stakeholders and the public on the issue of FGM. It called for the implementation of obligations stemming from the EU Action Plan and the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention.

Our website ([www.endfgm.eu](http://www.endfgm.eu)) continued to be a reference for institutions, organisations, researchers and

individuals working in the field of FGM. Our messages were also circulated through social media, (principally Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) to reach the general public and girls, women and communities affected by FGM. Public mobilisation was encouraged through social media and supported by visuals, infographics and images of artwork created specifically for us. This was released at key moments, such as during the 16 days of activism against gender based violence (25 November-10 December) and the international day of zero tolerance to FGM (6 February).

## An overview of our communications work

- ▶ 4 issues of the End FGM EU Newsletter. Newsletter here: <http://www.endfgm.eu/news-en-events/newsletters/>
- ▶ [Annual Report 2015](#)

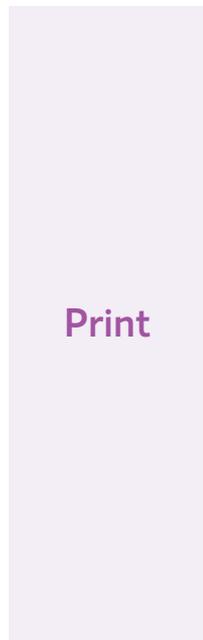
## SOCIAL MEDIA



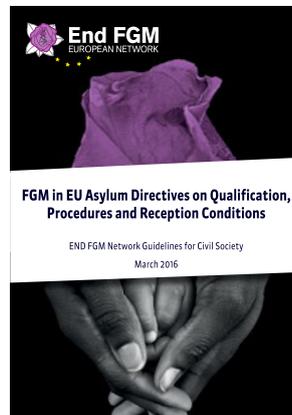
- ▶ Stratégies Concertées MGF: [End FGM European Network: A holistic approach to FGM advocacy](#) (February 24<sup>th</sup>)
- ▶ Middelburg: [Conference about gender-related vulnerabilities & asylum in Brussels](#) (November 15<sup>th</sup>)

## PUBLICATIONS

All publications can be found on our website in the 'resources' section.



How to Talk About FGM



The Victims Directive 2012/29 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. (Available in EN and FR)



FGM in EU Asylum Directives on Qualification, Procedures and Reception Conditions available in English, French, Italian, German & Dutch

Videos



End FGM Promo



End FGM Ambassadors

## How To Talk About Female Genital Mutilation

End FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK

Knowledge and understanding + Engaging language → HELP TO END FGM

FGM is a pervasive and barbaric practice

FGM is a harmful practice

These are harmful, lighter or symbolic forms of FGM

FGM is a cultural, traditional and/or religious practice and should be respected as such

FGM is a harmful practice which violates women and girls' human rights and integrity. Culture, tradition or religion can never justify harming women and girls.

All forms of FGM are harmful to women and girls (however extended the procedure may be).

**SURVIVOR** > The term 'FGM survivor' emphasizes the ability of a woman to resilience and self-empowerment after undergoing a traumatic violence. It is used as a neutral practice in the fact that she may prefer to use the term "survivor of FGM".

**AFFECTED COMMUNITIES** > The term 'FGM affected communities' emphasizes the fact that FGM is a harmful communities and that they have the power to end it. It is used in contrast with the term "practising communities".

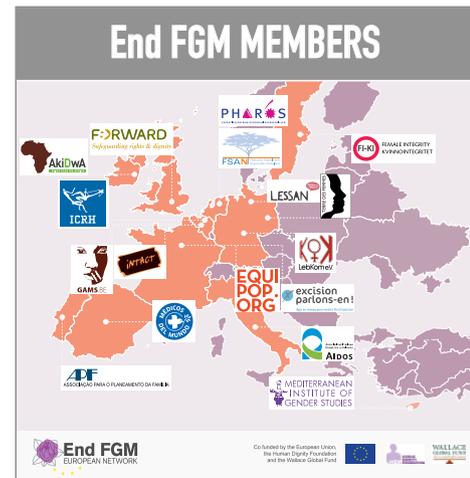
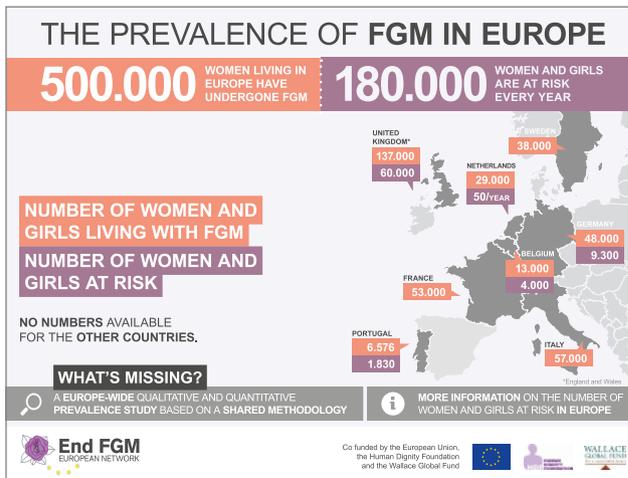
**GENDER EQUALITY** > FGM is a main feature of unequal gender relations. Gender equality is a key area for women and girls towards the full enjoyment of their human rights and freedoms.

**BE AWARE. BE SENSITIVE. PROTECT. EMPOWER. TAKE ACTION!**

## Infographics

3 infographics in EN:

- 1) How to Talk About FGM
- 2) FGM Prevalence Map and
- 3) End FGM European Network's members map



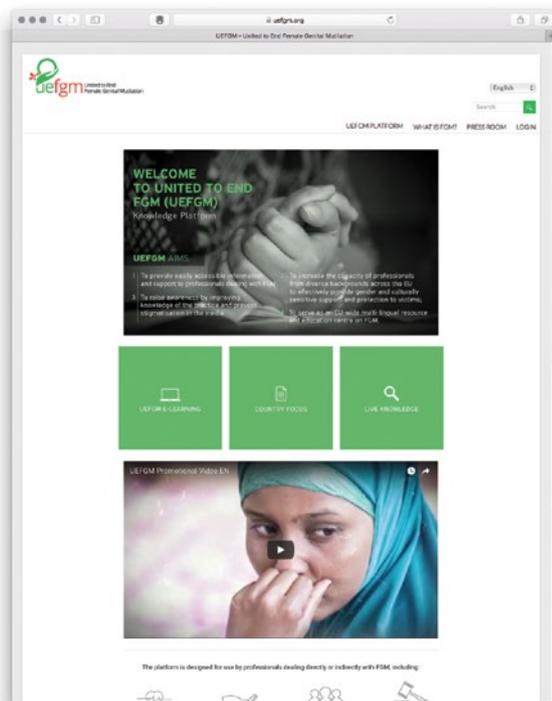
# Capacity-building

Our member organisations capacity was further strengthened to be effective advocates at national level through capacity building activities and knowledge sharing. The capacity building activities focused on the three Asylum Directives and on the Victims' rights Directive – End FGM EU has developed two guides and organised training for members on these themes.



# EU Projects

## EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM FOR PROFESSIONALS DEALING WITH FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (UEFGM)



The overall aim of UFGM was to create and develop a web-based knowledge platform that will serve as a European resource and education centre on FGM to improve the public and professional knowledge. The platform targets several types of professionals in the context of:

- ▶ Health
- ▶ Asylum and migration
- ▶ Police and Law enforcement
- ▶ Community engagement
- ▶ Social services and child protection
- ▶ Access to justice
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Media

End FGM EU was one of the partners to contribute to the development of this online learning platform including: dissemination, translations, training module development, contribution to the website development and promoting the platform at advocacy and alliance building meetings.

## CHANGE PLUS

The Change Plus project aims at raising awareness and promoting behaviour change towards the abandonment of FGM in practising communities across the EU through community assessment, capacity development/mutual learning, exchange of good practices and the empowerment of community members.

End FGM EU led on the dissemination aspects of the project, helping to reach a wider audience within the European Union and informing key institutions, decision makers and professionals about the impact and holistic approach of the project.

We also contributed content to guides for professionals as well as training manuals for facilitators working with communities.



<http://www.change-agent.eu>

# Members of the End FGM EU Network











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