

#ENDFGM4ALL

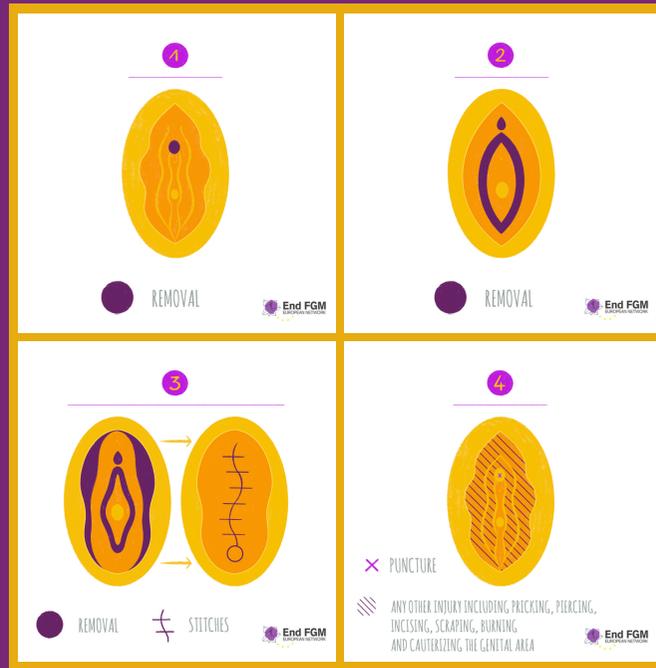
# FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION & INTERSECTIONALITY

Addressing FGM while leaving **no one** behind.

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, WHAT IS THAT?

Female Genital Mutilation, or FGM, is all procedures involving the removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for **non-medical reasons**.

There are 4 types of FGM.



**Type 1:** Also known as clitoridectomy.

**Type 2:** Also known as excision.

**Type 3:** It is also known as infibulation or pharaonic type.

**Type 4:** This type consists of all other procedures to the genitalia of women for non-medical purposes.

## FGM IN NUMBERS:

**200 million** girls & women alive today have undergone FGM. It is estimated that around **600.000** women are living with the consequences of FGM in Europe.

At current rates, an additional estimated **68 million** girls face being cut by **2030**.

The consequences of the **Covid19 pandemic** are yet to be measured precisely, but it is estimated that **2 million more** women & girls are at risk of undergoing FGM due to the disruption caused by the pandemic.

## WHO IS AFFECTED BY FGM?

FGM is practiced in at least 92 countries and on **every continent** except Antarctica. FGM-affected communities and FGM Survivors are **diverse**.

They have different ethnicities, nationalities, religions, socio-economic background...etc. This diversity **must be accounted for**.

## WHAT IS INTERSECTIONALITY?

Intersectionality is **an approach** to feminism & social causes.

The term was created by **Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw** and refers to a theory about how systems of power intersect and reinforce each other.

This means that **different forms of oppression** (e.g., racism, sexism, homophobia...etc.) do not exist separately but **are overlapping** and affect individuals simultaneously.

Regarding feminism, it means that **no one experiences life as "just a woman"**, other aspects such as race, class, disability...etc. play a role in the forms of discrimination that people are exposed to.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST FGM?

Intersectionality means we **cannot address only one form of oppression** while ignoring all the others. If we do that, we create **blind spots** in our work and it can cause certain people to be left out.

Even worse, neglecting intersectionality can also make us **reinforce the discriminations** we are overlooking.

For example, a Black Muslim FGM-Survivor in Europe will experience forms of discrimination that are **specific to her identity**, not just the sum of sexism, racism, and Islamophobia but a **mixture of all three**.

If we fight FGM without considering this, we can end up **unknowingly feeding hatred** towards her and her community.

At the same time, without intersectionality, we can unwillingly make certain people **invisible**. For example, FGM Survivors may also be people living with disabilities or people experiencing **other forms of Gender-Based Violence**.

We must **include them all** in our fight.

IN 2021, WE WILL ASK OURSELVES: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO END FGM FOR ALL?



**End FGM**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK

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