



Pledge: I ACT TO END FGM

The European Union (EU) is founded on the principles of respect for human rights, including children's rights and equality between women and men, all of which are enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights. As a defender of human rights, as a protector and promoter of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the European Parliament must fulfill its commitments and play a leading role in all European initiatives relating to violence against women and to ending female genital mutilation (FGM).

The END FGM European Network is **calling on members of the European Parliament to build on the work already done in this area, and to ensure continuity in the demands and concerns raised by the European Parliament.** Therefore the Network appeals to the Members of the European Parliament to sign this pledge:

I declare that I will work to

1. Ensure that the EU maintains its **commitment to combating violence against women and children, including the elimination of FGM**
2. Guarantee that the EU and its Member States sign and ratify the **Istanbul Convention** (Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women), so that the EU's commitment complies with international standards promoting a holistic and integrated approach in relation to violence against women and FGM
3. Ensure that FGM is not invoked as a pretext to regulate migration or to foster anti-migrant feelings and actions
4. Promote civil society consultation, and ensure that adequate resources are allocated to efficient prevention initiatives **at community level**
5. Follow-up with relevant EU bodies and agencies, in particular the European Commission, on the implementation **progress of the action plan on the elimination of FGM**
6. Guarantee that in particular the following measures included in the action plan are expediently and adequately implemented:
 - To foster a **better understanding** of FGM within the EU through the collection of data on prevalence of the practice
 - To promote **effective prevention, protection and victim support measures**, especially through training modules for health and legal professionals, child protection and support services
 - To support Member States in the enforcement of laws prohibiting FGM along with the implementation of the directive on the rights of victims
 - To facilitate protection for women and girls at risk within the existing EU legislative **framework on asylum**, ensuring that references to FGM are included in all training tools and country of origin information
 - To ensure that the EU institutions and EU Member States promote the elimination of FGM in all its **dialogues with third countries**

Date _____ Name _____

Signature _____