

2019 EU Elections Manifesto

Worldwide 30% of women suffer from physical and/or sexual violence and at least 200 million women and girls are affected by female genital mutilation, which is a global practice strongly linked to social norms shaped by tradition, and not linked to any specific religion. In the European Union alone, one out of three women experiences physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15, and currently close to 1 million women and girls live with the lifelong consequences of female genital mutilation.

In the past 5 years the EU has been committed to ensuring better prevention of violence against women and girls, more protection for survivors, prosecution for perpetrators and more integrated policies for effective coordination of efforts to end gender inequality. The past European legislature has paid an increasing attention to the issue of female genital mutilation both in Europe and beyond, implementing a comprehensive [European action plan](#), allocating funding, supporting civil society working on the issue and calling for political commitment to end female genital mutilation and protect those at risk.

But there is still a lot to be done, and now it is time to walk the extra mile and scale up those commitments and actions to make sure female genital mutilation remains a practice of the past. Let's keep on looking forward together and deliver a world free from violence to the future generations.

The End FGM European Network and its members are **calling on candidates of the 2019 European Elections** to commit to the following **7 points**:

1. Maintain and scale up European Union's commitments to **combating violence against women and girls**, including FGM
2. Support the European Union's ratification of the **Istanbul Convention**, to comply with international standards promoting a holistic and integrated approach in relation to violence against women and FGM
3. **Do not instrumentalise** the issue of FGM to fuel **xenophobic, anti-migrant** or **Islamophobic** discourse and actions, make sure that asylum policies respect human rights and that FGM-affected women and girls are adequately protected
4. Engage **FGM-affected communities** in designing, implementing and evaluating all actions affecting them, and allocate resources in a sustainable, flexible and accessible way
5. Consider **youth** as full actors and powerful agents of change, listen to them and involve them in all actions and policies affecting them
6. Provide greater geographical flexibility of funding schemes to put in place **building bridges** programs to achieve the global eradication of FGM in a transcontinental way
7. Call on all relevant **professionals** to be fully trained around FGM to provide better support for women and girls affected or at risk in close cooperation with communities