

ANNUAL REPORT

2018



End FGM
EUROPEAN NETWORK



The End FGM European Network thanks its funders for their continued support



SIGRID
RAUSING
TRUST



The End FGM European Network is a 22-member organisation, working to ensure sustainable European action to end FGM.



OUR VISION

A world free of all forms of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) where women and girls are empowered and can fully enjoy their human rights.



OUR MISSION

To be the driving force of the European movement to end all forms of female genital mutilation (FGM), joining the forces with communities, civil society organisations, whilst building synergies and cooperation with all relevant actors in Europe and globally.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04	THE CO-PRESIDENTS
06	WHAT WE DO
07	WHO WE ARE
08	FGM IN EUROPE
10	KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
11	NEW MEMBERS
12	2018-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN
14	PUBLICATIONS
16	ADVOCACY
18	COMMUNICATIONS
20	OUR PROGRAMMES
21	PROJECTS
22	MAP MEMBERS



SOKHNA FALL BA

TOKS OKENIYI



A WORD FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear friends, supporters and colleagues,

In June of this year, we were honoured to be elected as co-presidents of the End FGM European Network. As co-presidents, we are focused on the continued development of the Network. In collaboration with members, we look forward to taking the organisation to the next phase of its development, by building on the years of invaluable work and passion of the previous board. We wish to thank our funders, supporters, secretariat staff and members for their commitment and dedication to ending FGM.

In this annual report, we, the members of the End FGM European Network, reflect on the year that was. 2018 has been an exceptionally busy and positive year for the Network, with internal changes, as well as increased activities. In 2018, the Network began to implement a new strategic plan – the fruit of a participatory

process driven by our members. In the coming years the Network is committed to strengthening the European and global movement to end FGM, while ensuring the voices of affected communities, young people and survivors of FGM remain at the heart of our work.

In 2018, the Network implemented a diverse number of activities over the course of the year including two regional conferences, the launch of a capacity building programme and several trainings for members. A big focus remained on raising awareness on FGM as a global issue and as a European issue. In February 2018 the #Myissue200 campaign was launched. This campaign caused a social media storm with activities taking place across European countries. An indicator of the success of this campaign, was the unanticipated global reach with numerous activities in Canada and Africa.



The Network continued to push a building bridges approach, highlighting the importance of connecting regions, sectors and actors. To this end in 2018, with our counterparts in the other regions in the world we formally established an Inter-Regional Coalition to end FGM. The coalition issued its first joint statement in November.

Through our 'Youth Hub' we further invested in young activists by building their capacity and giving them opportunities to make their voices heard. In 2018, these young people spoke at European Parliament committees and met numerous political leaders. The future looks bright with such engaged, articulate and passionate young leaders.

There was significant change within the secretariat of the End FGM European Network – particularly with the recruitment of the new Director, Fiona Coyle.

The Network also expanded by three new members. We would like to personally welcome all who are new to the Network. We believe that with your support and input we will grow from strength to strength.

2018 was marked by the willingness and energy of our members to collaborate around learning, best practice and impact. In 2018, the Network introduced platforms for members to exchange, share expertise and best practice, and formulate Network positions to influence governmental and institutional decision-making. This collective work resulted in position papers on Community engagement, Medicalisation of FGM, Research priorities and Building bridges. In 2019, the Network will continue to bring members together across existing and new thematic areas, to stimulate learning and ensure practical application of lessons learnt.

Finally, we know that in the coming year European elections will take place, which will provide us with an opportunity to set the European agenda for many years to come. The past European legislature has paid an increasing attention to the issue of violence against women and girls, gender equality and ending FGM both in Europe and beyond. But there is still a lot to be done, and now is the time to walk the extra mile and scale up those commitments and actions, to make sure to deliver a more equal world free from violence to the future generations. Through our EU elections campaign, the Network will work to ensure that FGM remains at the heart of the EU policies.

YOURS,
SOKHNA FALL BA & TOKS OKENIYI



BOARD



CO-PRESIDENT
SOKHNA FALL BA
Project Officer,
Equilibres & Populations, France



CO-PRESIDENT
TOKS OKENIYI
Head of Programmes & Operations,
FORWARD, UK



SECRETARY
STÉPHANIE FLORQUIN
Project Officer,
GAMS, Belgium



TREASURER
ZAHRA NALEIE
Senior FGM Project Manager,
FSAN, The Netherlands



MEMBER
JOHANNA LATVALA
Manager of gender-based
violence projects,
Finnish League for Human Rights, Finland



MEMBER
VALENTINA FANELLI
Programmes Officer,
AIDOS, Italy



SECRETARIAT



DIRECTOR
FIONA COYLE

Policy and Advocacy Officer: **CHIARA COSENTINO**

Communications Officer: **LISA O'LEARY**

Administrative & Finance Officer: **KENDY TSHABANTU**

Advocacy assistants: **LUCIE LOISEL & NARGIZA KANYBEK KYZY**

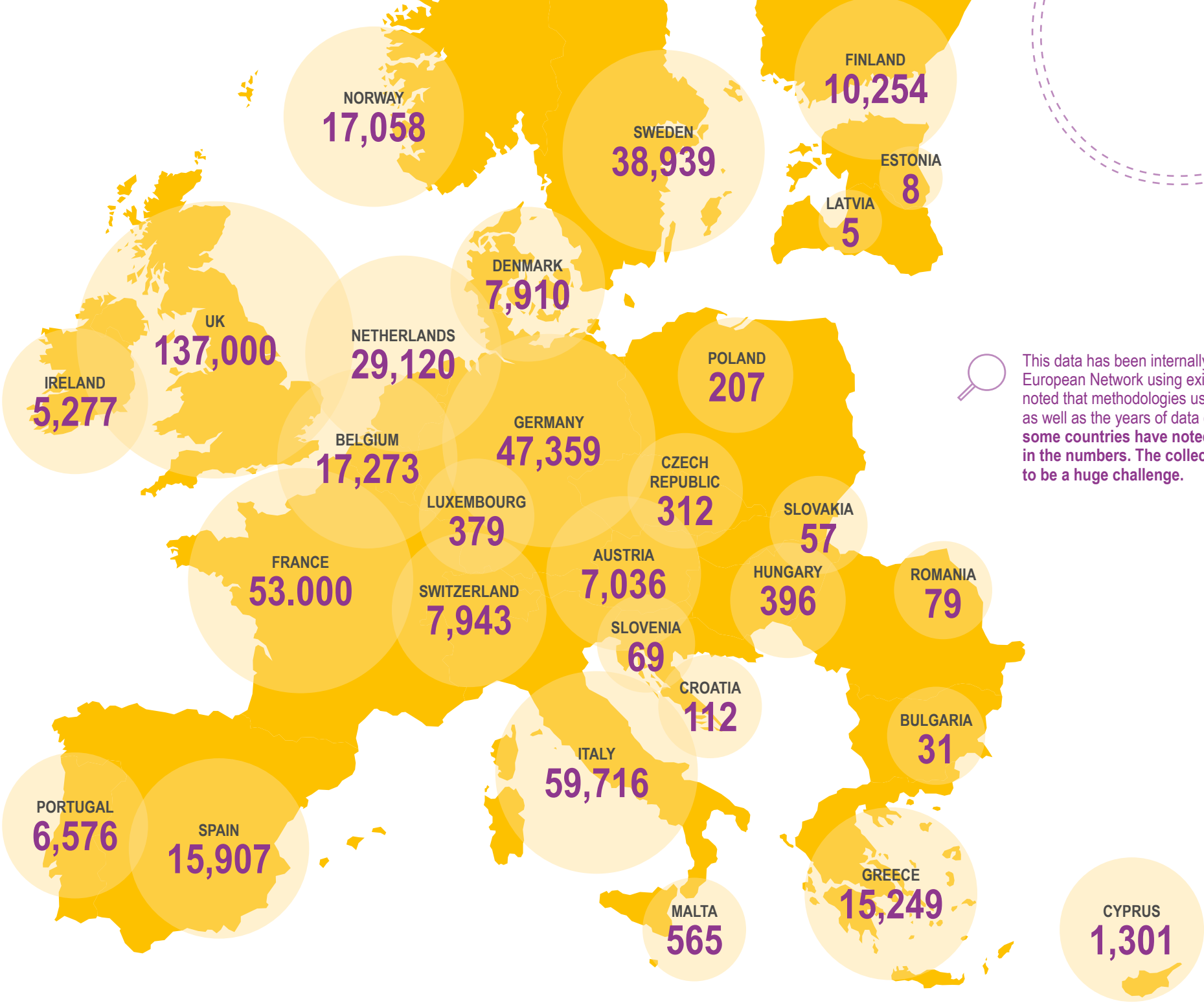
Communications assistant: **JAVIER GONZÁLEZ SANCHEZ**



SURVIVORS OF FGM LIVING IN EUROPE

Sources

- Estimates of first-generation women and girls with female genital mutilation in the European Union, Norway and Switzerland, 2016
- Prévalence des mutilations génitales féminines en Belgique, 2018
- Excision et Handicap (ExH) : Mesure des lésions et traumatismes et évaluation des besoins en chirurgie réparatrice, 2009
- Eine empirische Studie zu Genitalverstümmelung in Deutschland, 2017
- Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales: National and local estimates, 2015
- Netherlands - Prevalence, incidence and determinants, 2013
- Mutilação Genital Feminina: prevalências, dinâmicas socioculturais e recomendações para a sua eliminação, 2015
- Finnish Action plan for the prevention of female genital mutilation (FGM), 2019



This data has been internally gathered by the End FGM European Network using existing studies. It should be noted that methodologies used for the studies differ as well as the years of data collection. **In the meantime, some countries have noted significant increases in the numbers. The collection of data continues to be a huge challenge.**



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ensured that the **cross-border dimension** of FGM is addressed in key policy processes :
 - Resolution on FGM by the **European Parliament** on the 7th of February 2018
 - **Human Rights Council** 38th session Resolution on eliminating FGM
 - **UN Secretary General report** on “intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation”
 - Resolution on FGM by the **UN General Assembly** on the 14th of November 2018
- Strengthened community participation in relevant international processes, through **involving young people and community ambassadors** in 12 key dialogues, at European and international levels
- Members worked together to develop **4 position papers**
- Established an **Inter-Regional Coalition** to end FGM, strengthening cross-border cooperation with regional counterparts in Africa, Asia and the US
- Developed and promulgated an **empowering narrative** on FGM in Europe, including training of members, partners and the media
- Promoted and advocated for **professionals to receive training** on FGM:
 - disseminated with the help of our members the **United to End FGM platform** (UEFGM), which was accessed by 110,000 people
 - Over **6197 professionals were trained** at national level by the members of the Network
- Built a consensus on the need to holistically address the global nature of FGM, through **2 international conferences**
- Formalised the championship and support of over 100 policy makers and politicians



WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS !



SAVE A GIRL
SAVE A GENERATION
SPAIN

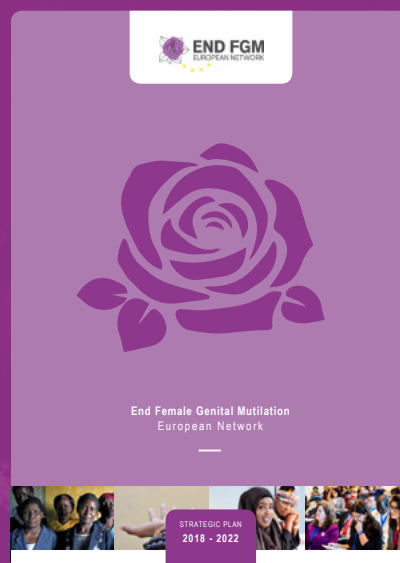


UNAF - UNION OF
FAMILIES ASSOCIATION
SPAIN



THE ORCHID PROJECT
UK

2018-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN



PRIORITY 1

★ What we want to achieve

A strong European response to end FGM, one that is grounded in human rights and child focused

🔍 Who

Affected communities, policy and decision makers, professionals, media, civil society organisations

📅 How

- Increasing the engagement of policy & decision makers and professionals, to enable communities, NGOs and civil society organisations to be key actors in tackling FGM
- Encouraging involvement of key stakeholders, through formalised championship and support
- Improving the implementation of existing policies at national, European and international level; including prevention, protection measures and provision of services.
- Growing partnership with professional and umbrella organisations
- Raising the awareness and understanding of FGM among the general public to foster citizen's involvement based on an empowering, non-stigmatising communication approach
- Strengthening the role of communities and young people in tackling FGM

PRIORITY 2

★ What we want to achieve 🔍 Who

Strengthen efforts to tackle the cross-border nature of FGM by building bridges between relevant actors and countries

Actors in Europe and in FGM practicing-countries in other regions

📅 How

- Increasing the End FGM European Network's role as a European focal point in the global movement to end FGM
- Strengthening synergies between actors in Europe, in countries of origins and other regions
- Raising awareness about the global and cross border nature of FGM

PRIORITY 3

★ What we want to achieve 🔍 Who

Strengthening the European movement to end FGM

The End FGM European Network's members and all the other European civil society organisations working towards ending FGM and supporting survivors

📅 How

- Strengthening the capacities, outreach, visibility and sustainability of the End FGM European Network and of its members
- Expanding the membership, to reflect the diversity of actors involved in ending FGM in Europe



PUBLICATIONS

Four **POSITION PAPERS**:

- Building Bridges
- Tackling FGM in Europe - Strategies for an effective community engagement
- FGM and Medicalisation
- Research priorities around FGM in Europe

Translation in languages of our members:

- How to talk about FGM
- Framing the 10 Principles for Integrated Child Protection Systems in the context of FGM





ADVOCACY

NATIONAL LEVEL

Our members successfully influenced policy at national level and secured several important changes:

- Portugal: start of a **national advocacy group** to establish key specific instruments to end FGM and support affected communities
- Belgium: a **law was voted** on the obligation of doctors to record FGM cases
- Spain: the **Inter-Parties National Agreement** against gender-based violence **included the issue of FGM** in for the first time
- Finland: a new multiannual **National Action Plan on FGM** was adopted

EUROPEAN LEVEL

- Adoption of a **European Parliament resolution on FGM** on 7 February 2018 reflecting all our core asks and mentioning the importance of the Network and its members. The plenary debate, coupled with the #MyIssueToo campaign, gave unprecedented visibility to the issue of FGM at European institutional level
- Roundtable to mark the 5-year anniversary on the adoption of the comprehensive **European Commission's Action Plan on eliminating FGM** in Europe and globally, which brought together actors from several sectors (EU, NGOs, Member States, community voices) who came up with key actions
- Over **30 meetings with policy makers and political representatives** held by the Network. Increasing awareness on FGM in Europe is key to securing adequate policies and ensuring their implementation



INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- The End FGM European Network's first time participation in the **European Week of Action for Girls**. The 2018 week strengthened the advocacy skills of young activists through workshops and meetings with policy-makers. It included an event organised by the Network to encourage youth engagement to end FGM, sharing stories from Africa and Europe
- Submission of 5 shadow reports on the **Istanbul Convention**. 7 Members in five countries submitted, under the Network's coordination, joint Shadow Reports to the **Council of Europe GREVIO Committee**, analysing the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in their respective countries and providing key recommendations
- **Setting of European Development Days** Lab Session on "Building bridges between regions and people – The abandonment of FGM by 2030", in cooperation with GIZ Germany
- **Founding an Inter-Regional Coalition to end FGM**. The End FGM European Network brought together anti-FGM networks from Africa, Asia and the US to establish an informal space to share information and work collaboratively. The Coalition held its first meeting and issued its first statement within the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence and held its first meeting aimed at speaking with a united voice to end FGM worldwide.
- Adoption of a **Human Rights Council** resolution on FGM in June, which included an emphasis on "migration and other population movements" allowing to take into consideration an important growing context
- Incorporating our input in the **UN Secretary General report** on "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation", which led to the adoption of a **UN General Assembly** resolution on FGM on the 14th of November 2018



COMMUNICATIONS

#MYISSETOO CAMPAIGN

- Massive engagement of over 100 key European decision makers such as Members of European Parliament, Commissioners, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights and members of the Council of Europe who wore specifically-made T-shirts
- The key words "My Issue Too" were used in speeches during the plenary debate in the European Parliament, giving visibility to the long-term advocacy work done in the last years. The campaign also reached other regions of the world such as in Canada where the hashtag was shared by school classes raising awareness about FGM for children
- A campaign video was viewed by thousands online



PROMOTING THE VISIBILITY OF OUR MEMBERS IN VIDEO

FSAN



INTACT



APF



ONLINE VISIBILITY



NEWSLETTERS

SOCIAL MEDIA

f 6,288

PAGE LIKES

t 10,400

FOLLOWERS

WEBSITE

globe 94,245

USERS

HOW TO TALK ABOUT FGM

Combated the lack of knowledge of the existence of FGM in Europe, by raising public awareness with:

- An animated video
- A webinar training session
- A position paper on 'How to talk about FGM'
- Using non-stigmatising empowering language, allowing for more open dialogues





OUR PROGRAMMES

Survivors and members of FGM-affected communities must lead on activities related to them and based on their specific and self-defined needs. Community voices must play a more central role in all actions and decisions moving forward, if we are to see an end to FGM.



YOUTH AMBASSADORS

Youth activists shared their experiences at several European and international events, including hearings in the European Parliament :

- 1 face-to-face meeting in September where the Youth ambassadors learnt how to conduct advocacy towards the European Parliament and strengthened their knowledge about FGM
- 3 new ambassadors from France and the UK
- The Youth Ambassadors were very active and spoke at conferences, participated in advocacy workshops, met European Union representatives and organised events in their respective countries on FGM and the importance of youth engagement

AMBASSADORS

- 1 face-to-face meeting in April allowed the Ambassadors to connect, review the programme and discuss further development strategies
- Advocacy meetings of the Ambassadors with members of the European Parliament and of the European Commission helped strengthening the voice of those affected by FGM at EU level
- The Ambassadors participated in 10 activities and talked at conferences and events to bring the voices of the affected communities and survivors at the heart of European and international conversations

CAPACITY BUILDING OF OUR MEMBERS

- Launch of the two-year members' capacity-building programme, delivering specific training and support to 8 members
- Two webinars organised on the Advocacy Toolkit
- Communications training for members



PROJECTS

CHANGE PLUS



The CHANGE Plus project came to an end in 2018. This was a successful 8-partner project, coordinated by the Network member TERRE DES FEMMES, aiming at encouraging the abandonment of FGM in practicing African communities in Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal and France. One of its main achievements included the promotion of a behavioural CHANGE model. This integrated community voices into the debates on FGM by offering the possibility of direct participation of 'CHANGE Agents' from practising communities through trainings, mentoring and activities.

GENDER ABC



In 2018 the two-year European project **Gender ABC was launched**, in four European countries lacking **gender-related education programmes in schools**: Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

The main objectives of the project are:

- Empowering children in learning about human rights, identifying violations of children rights & forms of gender-based violence and protecting themselves
- Raising awareness of school personnel, families, communities and support services in order to develop safe environments for children
- Strengthening political commitment of local authorities (education, welfare, youth) to sustain school educational programmes on gender-equality

MEMBERS' MAP

- Full Members
- Associate members
- Observer Members





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