

STATEMENT OPPOSING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

You should always carry this document with you when you go abroad. In this way you will be able to clearly explain to your family members that female genital mutilation (FGM) is a criminal offence in Germany and that you could be sent to prison for carrying out FGM.



DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions regarding female genital mutilation, you can contact the official Violence Against Women Support Hotline by phone or online. The Helpline provides counselling in 17 different languages – 24 hours daily and free of charge.



Keep this document safely with your travel documents in order to take it with you every time you go abroad.

Legal notice

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WHAT IS FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the complete or partial removal of the external female genitalia by cutting for non-medical reasons.

It is a violation of a person's human rights.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IS EXTREMELY HEALTH-DAMAGING

FGM often causes serious lifelong health problems. Through this practice girls die from blood loss or an infection. Many women suffer life-long pain and lasting physical and psychological problems, for example:

pain during urination as well as during sexual intercourse, incontinence, severe menstrual problems as well as bladder and uterus infections.

Further consequences can entail:
infertility, problems during childbirth or severe depressions.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL AND GERMAN LAW

FGM is punishable in Germany. Whoever mutilates or attempts to mutilate the external genitalia of any female person faces a prison sentence of maximum 15 years. This also applies when the crime was committed abroad.

Parents who subject their daughter to genital mutilation or arrange for this to be carried out by someone else in Germany or in a foreign country will likewise be liable to prosecution.

If FGM has been carried out or attempted to be carried out, the daughter may be located in a secure shelter by public service for short or long term and parents might lose custody of the child.

Parents who are sentenced for carrying out FGM and do not hold German citizenship may in addition lose their right to temporarily or permanently live in Germany.

Girls should be able to grow up sheltered and protected from any abuse and injury to their physical integrity. It is the government's responsibility to ensure that violations of such children's and women's rights don't go unpunished.

Head of Ministry of Labour, Social, Family Affairs and Integration of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Head of Ministry of Health and Consumer Protection of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Head of Ministry of Justice of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Head of Ministry of the Interior and Sports of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg