



MASOOMA INDIA

In India, FGM/C is mainly prevalent in the Bohra community. A 2018 study estimated that 75% of daughters (aged 7 and above) in the survey sample had undergone FGM/C.

Masooma Ranalvi is the founder of WeSpeakOut, an organization working to end FGM/C in India.



“ My mutilation happened when I was 7-years-old. That moment of my life is a horrible memory, shrouded in mystery and silence. For many years I blocked it out.

Sharing my story with the world was a turning point for me and the campaign. After it was published online, I got a huge response from women in the community who connected with it.

I set up a WhatsApp group with five people I knew. Women started talking about an experience that they had never shared before. Our group grew to 50 women from all over the world, Australia, America, Africa, the UK. There has been tremendous support among the sisterhood, amazing women, amazing stories, inspirational, very spirited, and some of them I have never met in person.

Since we started WeSpeakOut we've knocked on the doors of the government, started a Change.org petition that has over 200,000 signatures, launched a Supreme Court Case in India, and published a research study.

Data is a starting point, without that it is hard to move forward and we need the government on board to assist.

We don't have the official statistics that we need in India and it is a huge setback, whatever little

data we have collected brings out the grim reality.

My message to the Indian government is to recognize FGM exists here and it is a discriminatory practice that harms women and girls, and a medieval attempt to control their sexuality.

To the international community, please embrace India as one of the practicing countries and put in as much information, energy, and funding into supporting the campaign to end FGM here.

We are living in a time where women have really found their voices and I am privileged to be alive now. 30 years ago it would not be possible. We have been shackled in silence and internalized a lot of oppression, the moment has come to shed the yoke. ”

For Masooma's full story head to equalitynow.org/Masooma

FGM/C IS GLOBAL
but so is the
movement to end it