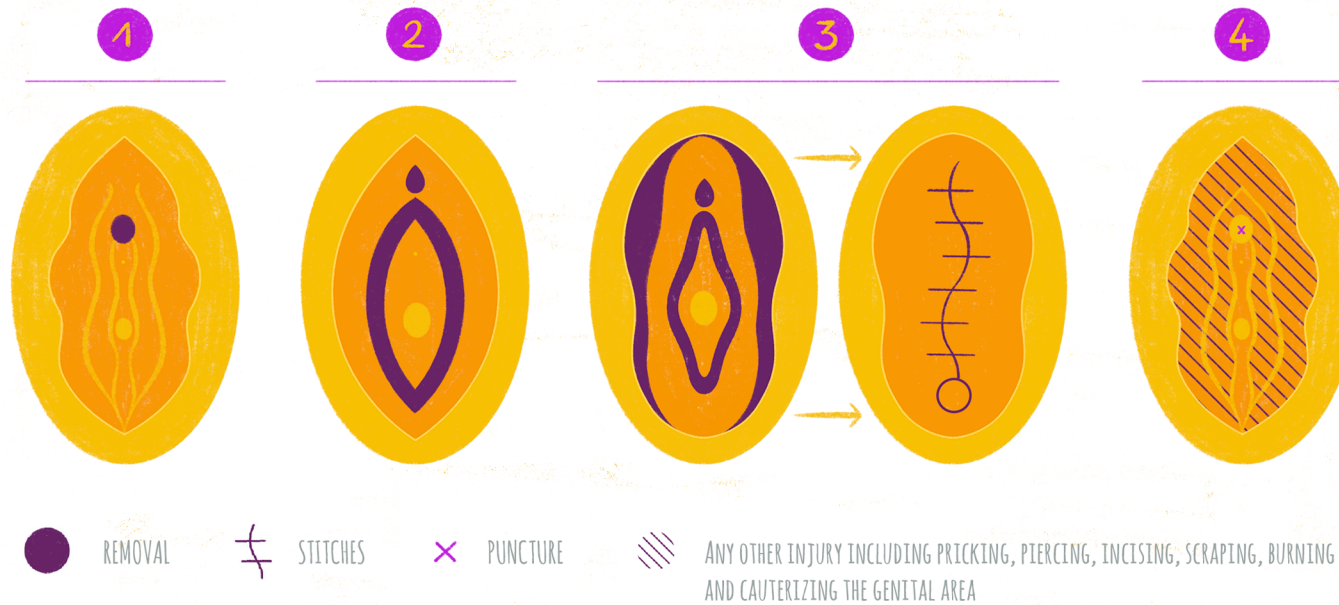


# THE TYPES OF FGM: ARE SOME TYPES MORE HARMFUL THAN OTHERS?



ALL FORMS OF FGM ARE EQUALLY HARMFUL TO WOMEN AND GIRLS. ALL TYPES OF FGM HAVE PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL CONSEQUENCES AND A LONG-LASTING IMPACT ON THE LIFE OF SURVIVORS. IT IS INCORRECT TO TALK ABOUT MORE OR LESS HARMFUL TYPES OF FGM BECAUSE THERE IS NO HIERARCHY OR MEASURE OF PAIN AND TRAUMA. THESE COMPARISONS OF HARMFULNESS ONLY RISK INVALIDATING THE EXPERIENCE OF SURVIVORS.

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IS CLASSIFIED INTO FOUR TYPES

- 1 Also known as clitoridectomy, this type consists of partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or its prepuce.
- 2 Also known as excision, the clitoris and labia minora are partially or totally removed, with or without excision of the labia majora.
- 3 The most severe form, it is also known as infibulation or pharaonic type. The procedure consists of narrowing the vaginal orifice with creation of a covering seal by cutting and appositioning the labia minora and/or labia majora, with or without removal of the clitoris. The appositioning of the wound edges consists of stitching or holding the cut areas together for a certain period of time (for example, girls' legs are bound together), to create the covering seal. A small opening is left for urine and menstrual blood to escape.
- 4 This type consists of all other procedures to the genitalia of women for non-medical purposes, such as pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterization.



**End FGM**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK