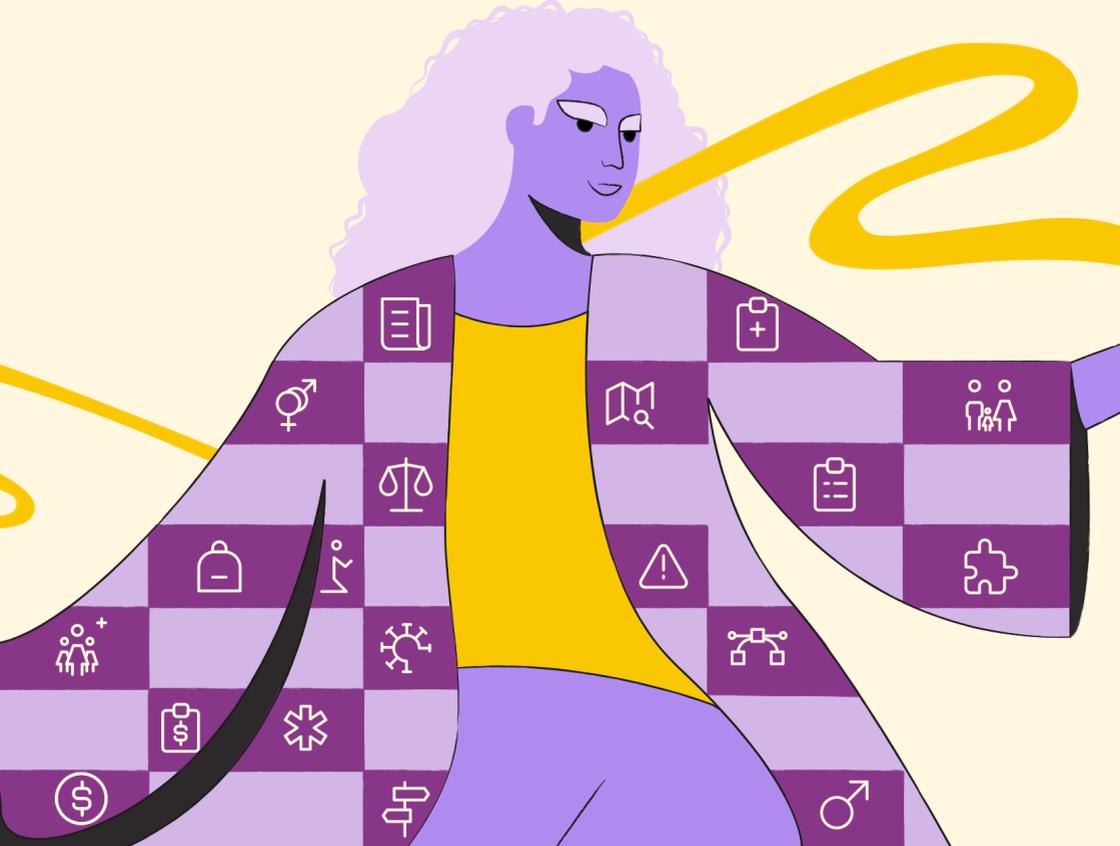




**End FGM**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK

# 10 SHAPING A FUTURE WITHOUT FGM

END FGM EU NETWORK  
10 YEAR IMPACT REPORT





**End FGM**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK



# FOREWORD

Dear members, ambassadors, partners, supporters, and friends, as we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the End FGM European Network, we stand at a pivotal moment of reflection, growth, and renewed dedication. Over the past decade, this Network has been a strong, united voice in the movement to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) across Europe and beyond. Our collective efforts, rooted in the unwavering commitment of our members, partners, and allies, have paved the way for meaningful change from raising awareness and influencing policy to supporting survivors and FGM-affected communities.

At the End FGM European Network, we are guided by a profound conviction: a world free of all forms of Female Genital Mutilation, where women and girls are empowered and can fully enjoy their human rights. For over a decade, this belief has fuelled a powerful, collective movement to end FGM.

Founded in 2014, and building on the momentum of Amnesty International's 2009–2014 campaign, our Network has transformed advocacy into action, and action into lasting impact. As we mark a decade of determined mobilisation, we reflect on our achievements and recommit ourselves to the journey ahead.

## Over the past ten years:

- **Over 39 member organisations across 16 countries have joined our Network, driving community-based, survivor-centred action from grassroots to institutions.**
- **More than 6,000 professionals have been trained across Europe, strengthening care, protection, and legal pathways for survivors.**
- **Developed Europe's first interactive map on FGM laws and policies, shaping EU-wide advocacy and increasing visibility.**
- **Through campaigns such as #MyIssueToo, #EndFGM4All, and #BehindEndingFGM, we have reached thousands across borders, challenging stigma and promoting intersectional understanding.**
- **Influenced landmark policy shifts, including the EU Gender Equality Strategy (2020–2025), the EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women (2024), and EU accession to the Istanbul Convention.**
- **Launched youth-led projects, placing young voices at the heart of the discourse.**
- **Contributed to 14 major resolutions and strategies, securing FGM's place within EU and international human rights frameworks.**

Yet, numbers alone cannot capture the full story. Every policy won, every voice amplified, and every survivor empowered brings us closer to a future where no girl is subjected to this harmful practice.

Ending FGM requires a holistic and intersectional approach. That is why, at End FGM EU, we work to: Strengthen the engagement and capacity of policymakers, professionals, and stakeholders to develop effective prevention, protection, and prosecution mechanisms; Empower communities and grassroots NGOs/CSOs to lead change, recognising the expertise of those most affected; Foster citizen involvement through non-stigmatising, empowering communications that build understanding and solidarity; Monitor and support the implementation of national, EU, and international commitments, ensuring accountability and sustained progress.

This strategy enables us to build bridges across sectors, countries, generations, and lived experiences, cementing End FGM EU as a vital force in the European and global movement to end gender-based violence. Looking Ahead...

The European and global context remains challenging. Humanitarian crises, rising populism, digital misinformation, and entrenched patriarchal norms continue to threaten hard-won rights. Yet, we remain steadfast in our belief that true gender equality, grounded in human rights and community empowerment, is the foundation of sustainability and shared prosperity.

Despite our progress, the statistics remain alarming:

Over 600,000 women are living with the consequences of FGM in Europe, and 190,000 girls and women are at risk across 16 European countries. In recent years, UNHCR estimates that 20,000 women and girls seeking asylum in Europe each year may be affected by FGM. These numbers are a stark reminder of the challenges we still face—challenges only compounded by global crises that risk reversing the gains we have made.

As you explore this 10-year impact report, you will witness what collective vision, tireless advocacy, and deep-rooted collaboration can achieve. But our work is far from over.

Let this ten-year anniversary be more than a celebration of past achievements; let it be a renewed call to action for the future—to continue shaping a world free from FGM, where every woman and girl can live a life free from violence and discrimination.

Together, we must continue to collaborate across countries and sectors, and to amplify the voices of survivors, youth, and affected communities—placing them at the centre of decision-making and building a future free from FGM.

To our members, partners, ambassadors, professionals, survivors, and supporters: thank you. Your resolve powers this movement. Your solidarity shapes the future.

Let us continue to envision and build that future together—a future where

Thank you,

**Marianne Nguena,**  
Interim Director,  
END FGM European Network





## THE VISION

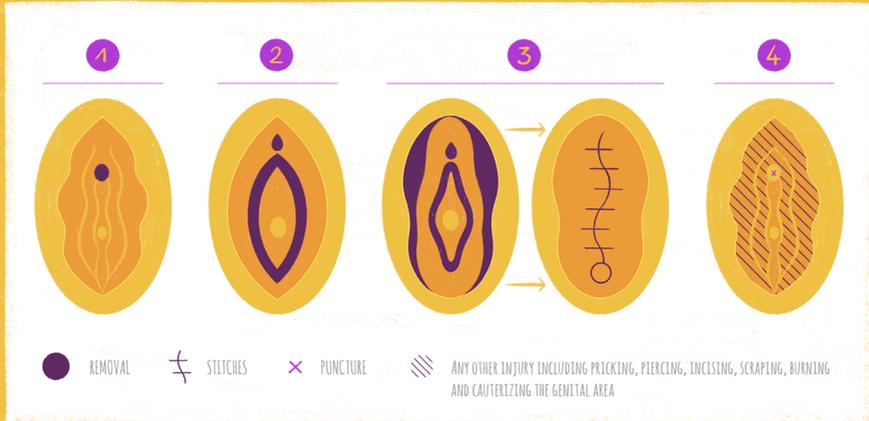
of The End FGM European Network (End FGM EU) is a world free of all forms of Female Genital Mutilation where women and girls are empowered and can fully enjoy their human rights.

## THE MISSION

of The End FGM European Network (End FGM EU) is to be the driving force of the European movement to end all forms of FGM, joining the forces of communities and civil society organisations, and building synergies and cooperation with all relevant actors in Europe and globally.



## 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 external part of the clitoris and/or its prepuce.

2 Also known as **excision**, the external part of clitoris and labia minora are partially or totally removed, with or without excision of the labia majora.

3 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 external part of 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.

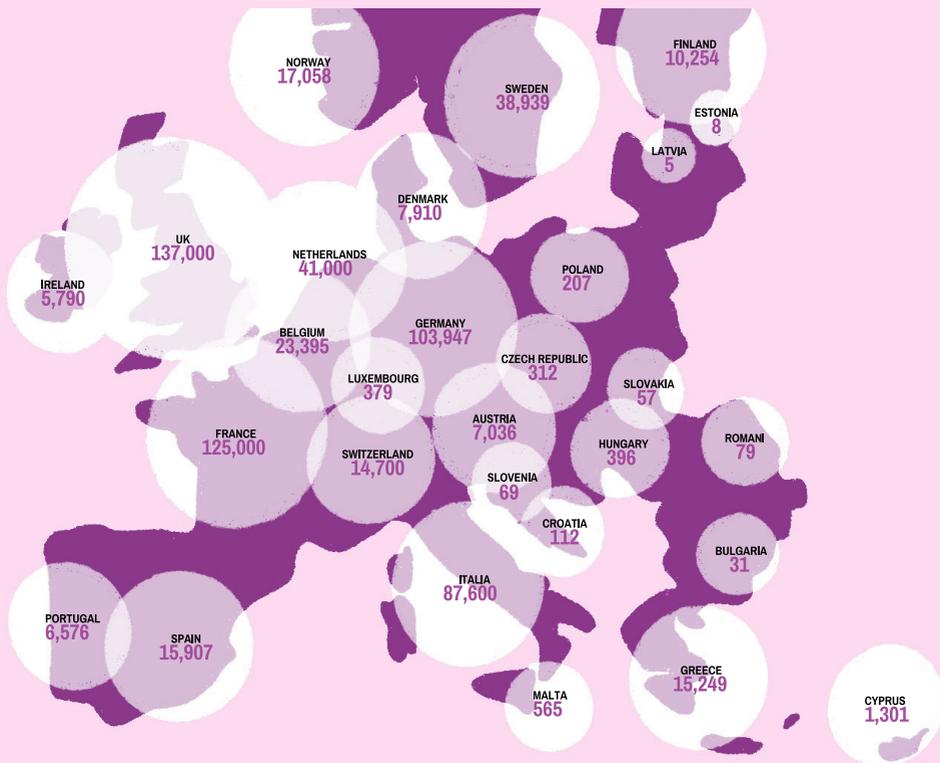


**End FGM**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK

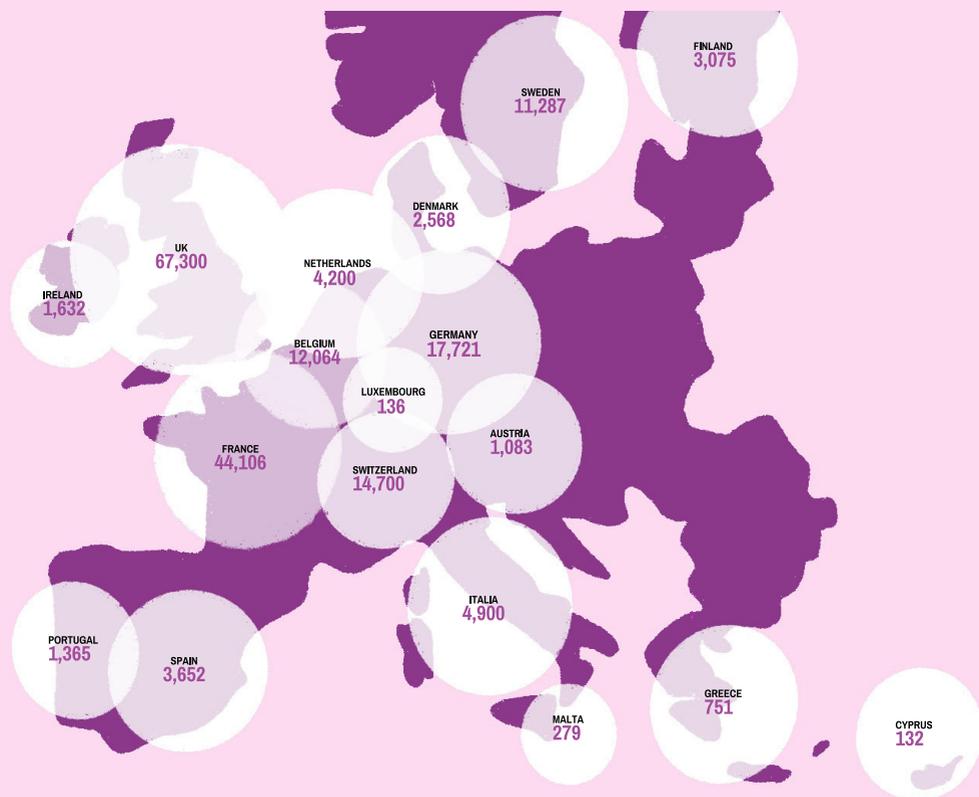
Over 230 million women and girls alive today have undergone FGM (updated figure from UNICEF in 2024) and **4.4 million are projected to be at risk in 2025 (UNFPA)**. It is estimated that there are over 600.000 FGM survivors living in Europe and around 190.000 are at risk in 17 countries alone

## FGM IN EUROPE

It is important to note that the methodologies and data collection periods differ among these studies, and they cover a different range of age groups. The data is compiled from the most current sources available and is continuously updated by End FGM EU and our national members. However, collecting accurate data remains a significant challenge due to the lack of systematic data collection across European countries making it more difficult to understand the impact of FGM in Europe and better tailor policies, impacting the overall efforts to end FGM.



# GIRLS AT RISK



## SOURCES

1. BELGIUM: Estimation de la prévalence des filles et femmes ayant subi ou à risque de subir une mutilation génitale féminine vivant en Belgique (2022)
2. EIGE, Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union - Denmark, Spain, Luxembourg and Austria (2021)
3. EIGE, Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union - Ireland, Portugal and Sweden (2015)
4. EIGE, Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union - Belgium, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus, Malta (2018)
5. FINLAND: Action plan for the prevention of female genital mutilation (2019)
6. FRANCE: Estimate of adult women with female genital mutilation living in France (2019)
7. GERMANY: Weibliche Genitalverstümmelung in Deutschland Dunkelzifferschätzung, Terre des Femmes (2022)
8. IRELAND: AKIDWA estimations based on Ireland's Central Statistics Office (2016)
9. ITALY: Stima del numero di donne portatrici di mutilazioni genitali, delle bambine a rischio e dell'attitudine nei confronti della pratica (2019)
10. NETHERLANDS: Vrouwelijke Genitale Verminking Omvang en risico in Nederland (2019)
11. PORTUGAL: Mutilação Genital Feminina: prevalências, dinâmicas socioculturais e recomendações para a sua eliminação (2015)
12. RUSSIA: The practice of female genital mutilation in Dagestan: strategies for its elimination (2018)
13. SPAIN: La Mutilación Genital Femenina en España (2020)
14. SWITZERLAND: Mutilations génitales féminines : recommandations pratiques, Obstetrika 11/2019
15. UK: Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales: National and local estimates (2015)

# HOW THE END FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK (END FGM EU) WAS BORN

The End FGM European Network (End FGM EU) was founded with the goal of mobilizing civil society to fight against FGM across Europe and beyond.

End FGM European Network was created following the success of Amnesty International's 2009-2014 End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) European Campaign.



## KEY FACTS:

**Involved:** 16 civil society organizations across 13 EU Member States.

**Impact:** Raised awareness of FGM in Europe, attracting attention from major institutions like the EU, Council of Europe, and UN.

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THIS FIVE YEARS CAMPAIGN (2009-2014):

**2011:** Istanbul Convention adopted by the Council of Europe, officially acknowledging FGM as a form of violence against women (VAW). Came into effect in August 2014.

**2012:** Public mobilization across 13 countries, collecting 42,000 signatures to urge the EU to adopt a strategy to end FGM.

**2013:** European political strategy established toward the elimination of FGM.

**2014:** Political mobilization and commitments by decision-makers to end FGM. Funding allocated by the European Parliament and European Commission for FGM-related projects.

**Council Conclusions (2014) on Preventing and Combating All forms of violence against women and girls, including FGM.**

2014

# OFFICIAL CREATION OF END FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK

Expanded to 15 members from 13 EU Member States, coordinating action across Europe to eliminate FGM.



## Advocacy for the Istanbul Convention:

Engaged in advocacy to push the EU to ratify the Istanbul Convention on violence against women.

**Advocacy to mainstream FGM in several EU policy and legislation** with a focus on asylum (Asylum Directives Guide on FGM in the EU asylum directives, in conjunction with UNHCR, the Council of Europe and a gender expert.) and victims rights (Victims' Rights Directive) Q&A on the Victims' Rights Directive in conjunction with our Belgian member INTACT and a gender expert.



**FGM in EU Asylum Directives on Qualification, Procedures and Reception Conditions**

END FGM Network Guidelines for Civil Society  
March 2016



**Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
On the rights to support and protect victims of gender based violence, including women affected by female genital mutilation



2015

# FOCUS ON ASYLUM

## Ambassadors Program Launch

The Ambassadors Program aims to increase understanding of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by sharing personal stories and empowering affected communities across Europe and beyond.



## KEY FOCUS:

Development and monitoring of policies related to FGM and violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Training of affected communities — including survivors, girls at risk, and men — as advocates for change.



## EXPLORE MORE:

### First European Knowledge Platform for Professionals dealing with female Genital Mutilation (UEFGM):

A web-based resource aimed at improving public and professional knowledge on FGM for various sectors, including health, law enforcement, social services, media and education. The project ended due to a lack of sustainability mechanisms, a key lesson learned from this initiative.



*The European Parliament adopted a resolution calling for a comprehensive EU approach to combat FGM, emphasizing the need for prevention, protection, and support for victims.*

2016

# BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN EU INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ACTION TO END FGM

**Building bridges to End FGM to Create Synergies Across Sectors and Countries, fostering dialogue among various sectors unites the European movement to advocate with one voice for the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).**

“Feminist solidarity has guided us. It helped us build bridges that transcend borders.”

— Equilibres & Populations, France.



## KEY POINTS:

**Cooperation between stakeholders** in both EU countries of residence and countries of origin for implementing effective actions, policies, and legal frameworks to eliminate FGM.

### **Empowering Youth and Affected Communities:**

The network actively engages young people from FGM-affected communities through the Youth Programme Meeting, which empowers youth to influence the network's advocacy and awareness efforts.

Sustainable Connection between Youth and Affected Communities with EU decision-makers in eliminating FGM in Europe.

*The EU's Comprehensive Approach to Preventing and Combating Violence against Women was announced, highlighting the need to protect women from gender-based violence, including FGM.*

2017

# FGM IS #MYISSUETO

**#MyIssueToo Campaign** designed to mobilise everyone - members of the general public as well as stakeholders - to take a stand against FGM.



Watch the video on **How to Talk about FGM**



**Advocacy to ensure 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.** It called for increased efforts from the Commission and Member States to build bridges, strengthen community engagement, mainstream FGM and ensure the highest standards of international protection for FGM survivors coming to Europe.

2018

### Advocacy for the Victims' Rights Directive:

Contributed to revisions of the EU Victims' Rights Directive, focusing on protecting FGM survivors.

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.

### 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.



### Gender ABC Project:

A two-year initiative aimed at transforming children's attitudes towards gender stereotypes and norms, which are the root causes of harmful practices and gender-based violence.



# 5 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

## #MyVoiceMatters Campaign:

Focused on amplifying community voices in the FGM movement, with a youth manifesto advocating for increased youth involvement.

## 5-Year Anniversary of the Network:

Celebrated five years of existence, growing to 27 members in 14 countries.



## Youth Ambassadors awarded

an Erasmus+ project to create their very own European YouTube channel, called the Purple Chair!

“With Purple Chair, I wasn’t just speaking — I was campaigning.”

— Youth Ambassador Testimonial



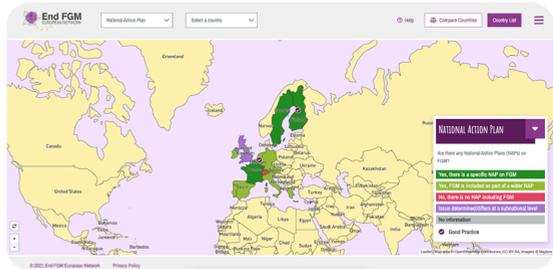
Key Publications such as the Advocacy Toolkit and the Community Engagement Principles.



2019

# THE FGM INTERACTIVE MAP LAUNCH

**Launch of the FGM Interactive Map in Europe:** This key tool for advocacy highlights FGM laws and policies across 14 European countries.



**Adoption of a European Parliament Resolution on an EU strategy to put an end to FGM around the world,** with key contribution from End FGM EU, calling upon the EU to ensure FGM is included in all EU policy processes

**Launch of the European Commission's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025,** planning a revision of the EU Communication on eliminating FGM and the drafting and adoption of a new EU Recommendation on Harmful Practices, including FGM.

**Publication of the United Nations Secretary-General progress Report on Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.** It explicitly mentions a report by the End FGM European Network and partners within the Global Platform for Action to end FGM.



*The EU adopted the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, which includes actions to combat violence against women and girls, including FGM.*

2020

# #ENDFGM4ALL CAMPAIGN



## #EndFGM4All Campaign:

Worked on integrating and promoting an intersectional approach to elimination of FGM and GBV by addressing the complexity of the root causes and intertwined forms of discrimination that play a role in its continuation.

**The CHAIN project** through which we created and launched an EU-wide awareness raising campaign on Early and Forced Marriage and FGM.



## Launch of training for healthcare professionals.

Trained over 90 professionals (at the national and EU level) and organised the event **“Where do we stand with Reconstructive Surgery after FGM in Europe?”** with 12 European medical professionals to discuss reconstructive surgery practices.

*The EU Strategy on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment was launched, emphasizing the need to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including FGM.*

*European Parliament Resolution (2021) on identifying GBV as a Eurocrime.*

2021

# #BEHINDENDINGFGM CAMPAIGN

## #BehindEndingFGM Campaign

The campaign highlighted the daily efforts of members, ambassadors, and allies to end FGM through storytelling.

“Each campaign made us stronger and more visible. Today we are a respected voice.”

— APF, Portugal

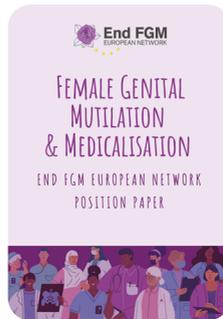
## We published our FGM and Medicalisation

paper outlining our position on medicalised female genital mutilation (FGM);



## Engagement with Policymakers:

Active participation in several EU policy and legislative initiatives concerning FGM; especially Working closely with the European Commission on the preparation of the **Recommendation on Preventing Harmful Practices and contributing to discussions and negotiations on the proposal for the EU Directive on violence against women.**



## Violence against women

### The EU's proposal to end violence against women

The new rules will criminalise a range of offences, including female genital mutilation and cyber violence.



2022

# A ROADMAP TO END FGM

## A Roadmap to End FGM

The 2023 campaign explored effective strategies to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by drawing on grassroots expertise. It highlighted promising practices in Europe, focusing on FGM laws, policies, and personal stories of those involved in the movement. The campaign aimed to inform policymakers, stakeholders, and the public on concrete steps to eliminate FGM.

“We’ve learned that advocacy without communities is advocacy without impact.”

— GAMS Belgium



## KEY FACTS:

### EU Accession to the Istanbul Convention:

A major achievement in the fight to end FGM, as the EU officially joined the Convention on Violence against Women a major step toward eradicating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

### Global Platform for Action to End FGM/C:

FGM/C: the Network and its global partners organized a global pre-conference at Women Deliver2023 brought together NGOs and survivor-led organizations to strengthen international cooperation to eliminate FGM.



2023

## KEY FACTS:

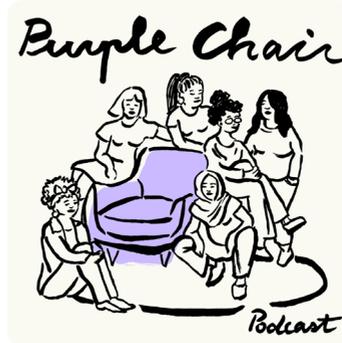
### International Conference on FGM (ICFGM):

Held in Tanzania in October 2023, End FGM EU participated, sharing findings and recommendations for global action, resulting in an outcome document for commitments at the African Union level.



### Purple Chair Podcast:

We developed a 10-episode podcast series featuring youth ambassadors to raise awareness and share personal stories.



### Launch of the “Join our CHAIN” Project:

A project dedicated to the prevention and elimination of harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Early and Forced Marriage (EFM) within affected communities across three EU Member States.

Join our  
**CHAIN**



# CELEBRATING A DECADE OF ACTION

## #FGMisPatriarchy

In 2024, the End FGM European Network focus on the patriarchal roots of FGM, emphasizing its tangible and symbolic impact on women and girls. The campaign highlights that FGM, present on all continents, is a global expression of patriarchal oppression, affecting women and girls everywhere.



## Launch of the End FGM E-Campus Project:

A European Knowledge Platform designed to support FGM survivors. This free, multilingual online platform offers practical skills to professionals working with survivors and those at risk. Available in English, French, Greek, Italian, and Portuguese, it provides essential tools and knowledge for delivering appropriate care, contributing to the elimination of FGM in Europe and beyond.



## Adoption of the EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women (2024):

In May 2024, the EU adopted a crucial directive reaffirming the ban on FGM as a form of gender-based violence (GBV).

## EU implementation Istanbul Convention.

2024

### EU Elections 2024:

The 2024 EU elections marked the end of the five-year legislature. It was a crucial moment for the End FGM European Network to engage with candidates and newly elected MEPs. The Network launched an election campaign, preparing a Manifesto outlining key principles for the elimination of FGM.

*144 candidates pledged support, with around 20 elected to the new EU Parliament.*



*EU Directive on combating violence against women adopted.*

# PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS TO ADVANCE THE NETWORK MISSION.

Key initiatives include



## European Week of Action for Girls (EWAG):

A week-long series of EU-level events and meetings focused on celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child (October 11). This coalition brings youth advocates into direct contact with EU decision-makers, promoting girls' rights on a global scale.



## Global Partnerships:

The network collaborates with the Global Platform for Action to End FGM/C, playing a significant role as a civil society interlocutor, especially within the FGM Donors Working Group. These collaborations emphasize advocacy and knowledge-sharing at both global and EU levels.



## Coalitions:

The network partners with other coalitions like HRDN, SDG Watch, EU SRHR, EWAG, CSE, and OII Europe, and others. These partnerships help to coordinate actions and push for stronger protections through EU legislation.



# LOOKING AHEAD: PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT DECADE

- Sustainable funding to secure long-term initiatives
- Empowering youth and involving men as allies
- Expanding survivor support via holistic care centres
- Stronger advocacy for EU-level enforcement of gender equality legislation
- Digital innovation through our multilingual E-Campus platform
- Grassroots capacity building in affected communities

“The next decade must focus on sustainable resources and local ownership.”

— End FGM EU Board Member

## Conclusion:

From Commitment to Change

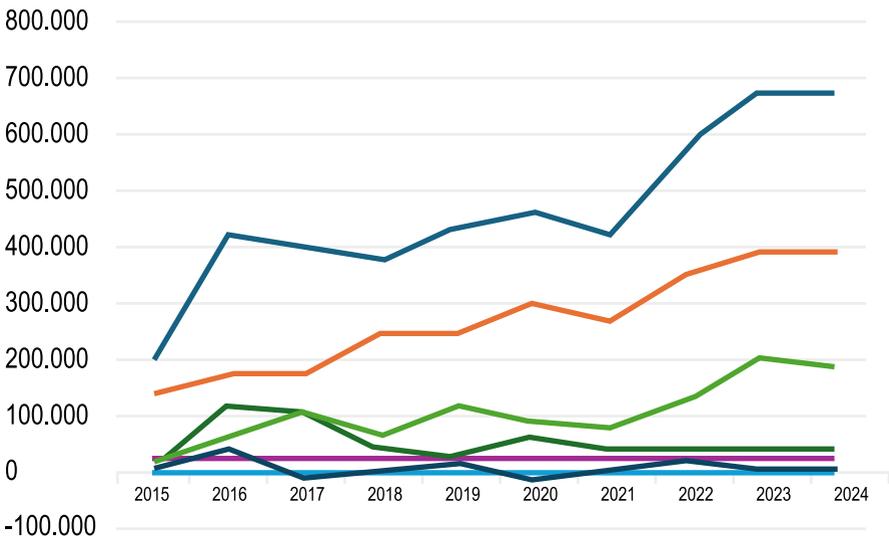
In ten years, we've supported policy shifts, empowered survivors, trained professionals, and contributed to reshape public discourse on FGM. We've proven that together, we can build a future where no girl or woman has to endure this form of violence.

10 years of action. One united movement. A future free from FGM.

# FUNDRAISING: TEN YEARS OF GROWTH AND FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

End FGM EU's network fundraising journey illustrates its growth for the past decade.

## END FGM EU Financial Evolution Over the past Decade



- Total - Network Costs
- Staff costs
- Consultancies
- Investment costs
- Running costs
- Activities Costs
- Other

## KEY FEEDBACK FROM THE MEMBERS AND AMBASSADOR, AND SECRETARIAT OF THE END FGM EU NETWORK

The impact evaluation underscores the significant and multifaceted Impact of the End FGM EU Network over the past decade, as reflected in the feedback from members, ambassadors, and the Secretariat.

### Ambassadors

#### Motivation:

- Deep commitment to supporting women and girls affected by FGM, especially in their own communities.

#### Role:

- Raising awareness, sharing information, and reducing stigma.
- Promoting open conversations about FGM.

#### Personal & Professional Growth:

- Increased confidence and empowerment.
- Enhanced knowledge of legal frameworks and advocacy skills.

### Members

#### Capacity Building:

- Strengthened through funding, training, and knowledge exchange.

#### Joint Advocacy & Visibility:

- Greater visibility at EU level.
- Effective collaboration within and beyond the Network.

#### Policy Influence:

- Elevated FGM as a human rights issue.
- Supported survivor-led initiatives.

#### Resources & Campaigns:

- High-quality training and advocacy tools.
- Campaigns with tangible impact on public awareness and policy.

## Secretariat

### Coordination & Support:

- Ensured effective communication and collaboration.
- Provided strategic guidance and maintained momentum.
- Helped navigate challenges and fostered unity.

Reflecting on the past ten years of efforts to eliminate FGM, what key lessons have you learned from our actions?



# LOOKING FORWARD

## Priorities for the Next Decade:

- Expand outreach and the network.
- Enhance survivor support and aftercare.
- Focus on prevention and early intervention.
- Tailored capacity-building for members.
- Secure sustainable funding.
- Deepen involvement in policy dialogues.





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EUROPEAN NETWORK



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Get in touch at [info@endfgm.eu](mailto:info@endfgm.eu)

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