



Ms Hadja Lahbib
Commissioner for Equality; Preparedness and Crisis Management

Ms Kaja Kallas
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Brussels 12/11/2025

Subject: Urgent call for EU action to protect women and girls in Sudan amid escalating humanitarian crisis

Dear Commissioner Hadja Lahbib,

Dear Vice-President Kaja Kallas,

As End Female Genital Mutilation European Network (End FGM EU) we are appalled by the exacerbating humanitarian crisis in Sudan which is having **devastating consequences for women and girls at utmost risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**.

Since the outbreak of the war in April 2023, following years of conflicts and instability, the Sudanese population and in particular women and girls face terrible suffering. In line with our commitment for global solidarity and intersectional feminism, **we urge the European Union to take immediate and decisive action to end hostilities and to ensure that women and girls in Sudan who are being subjected, or at risk of SGBV, including female genital mutilation (FGM), receive protection and support.**

Sudan remains one of the most affected countries by FGM with prevalence rates as high as 97,6¹ in North Darfur. **In times of displacement and conflict, survivors and girls at risk of FGM become even more vulnerable** as it ²almost impossible to provide long-term care and sustainable prevention strategies². Despite the clear need and urgency, gender-based violence including FGM, continues to remain a low funding priority, with resources often directed to other relief activities.

¹[COI Report - Sudan: Country Focus | European Union Agency for Asylum](#)

²[FGM in Emergency and Humanitarian Contexts - CoP FGM-MGF](#)

Recent attacks reported by the Sudan Doctor Network on healthcare facilities³⁴ stress the urgency of the situation. These attacks on medical facilities, are gross violations of international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles and exacerbate an already dire situation. With nearly a third of Sudan's population forcibly displaced, women and girls are exposed to increasing risks SGBV. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)⁵ more than 12 million women and girls are at direct risk of sexual violence. **School closure and displacement have created conditions where FGM, child marriage and sexual abuse and exploitation are escalating.**

[End FGM EU's Ambassador Ahlam Aziz](#) has stressed how the war has disrupted vital anti-FGM activities such as the Saleema initiative pausing life-saving work and deepening the crisis and its impact on the lives of thousands of women and girls. ⁶ ⁷ ⁸ demonstrate that **SGBV in Sudan is being used as a weapon, a tool to create fear and domination over a population that is already facing one of the worst humanitarian crises in history.**

As [End FGM EU's youth Ambassador Bassmala Morkaz](#) reminds us:

'Sudanese women and girls are bearing the brunt of this war. The collapse of essential services, including health care and protection systems, is putting them at even greater risk of FGM and other forms of gender-based violence. Our voices need to be heard, and our rights must be protected - even in times of war'

In light of this urgent and unbearable situation, we call on the European Union and its Member states to:

- **Call for an immediate end of the hostilities in Sudan;**
- **Condemn the ongoing attacks on civilians and healthcare facilities;**
- **Continue to scale up and strengthen allocation of additional funds dedicated to humanitarian aid in Sudan to support urgent humanitarian needs, protect**

³ <https://x.com/SDN154/status/1985387653827608852>

⁴ [UNFPA Statement on Repeated Attacks Against El Fasher Maternity Hospital, Sudan | United Nations Population Fund](#)

⁵ [Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 - Executive Summary \(December 2024\) \[EN/AR\] | OCHA](#)

⁶ [UNFPA Sudan | NO SAFE HAVEN .. ESCALATING GBV AMID MASS DISPLACEMENT IN TAWILA](#)

⁷ [Sudan: "They Raped All of Us": Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in Sudan - Amnesty International](#)

⁸ ["Khartoum is not Safe for Women!": Sexual Violence against Women and Girls in Sudan's Capital | HRW](#)

civilians and support displaced populations. Ensure that women's protection and gender-based violence prevention, including FGM, are central priorities in all EU humanitarian and diplomatic responses to the war;

- **Keep advocating for safe humanitarian access to affected regions and concretely follow up on the recommendations made during the third humanitarian senior officials meeting on Sudan in March 2025**
- **Ensure that displaced women and girls are included in peacebuilding and recovery efforts.**

The European Union must stand firm in its global commitment to uphold human rights guarantees, gender equality and the protection of women and girls affected by SGBV including FGM everywhere.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Marianne Nguena Kana,
Director



On behalf of the End FGM European Network's Board

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