A DECADE OF ACTION | SHAPING A FUTURE WITHOUT FGM

End FGM
EUROPEAN NETWORK

2014

How End FGM EU Was Born

The 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.

2015

Official creation of the End FGM European Network

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

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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.

2016

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.

defgm United to End Female Genital Mutilation

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.

2017

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).

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.

2018

FGM is #MyIssueToo

#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.

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.

2019

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!

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

2020

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.

2021

#EndFGM4All Campaign

#EndFGM4All

#EndFGM4All Campaign:
Worked on integrating and promoting and 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 crms of violence against women, including FGM.

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

2022

#BehindEndingFGM Campaign

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

#BEHINDENDINGFGM

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.

2023

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.

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.

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

2024

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

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):

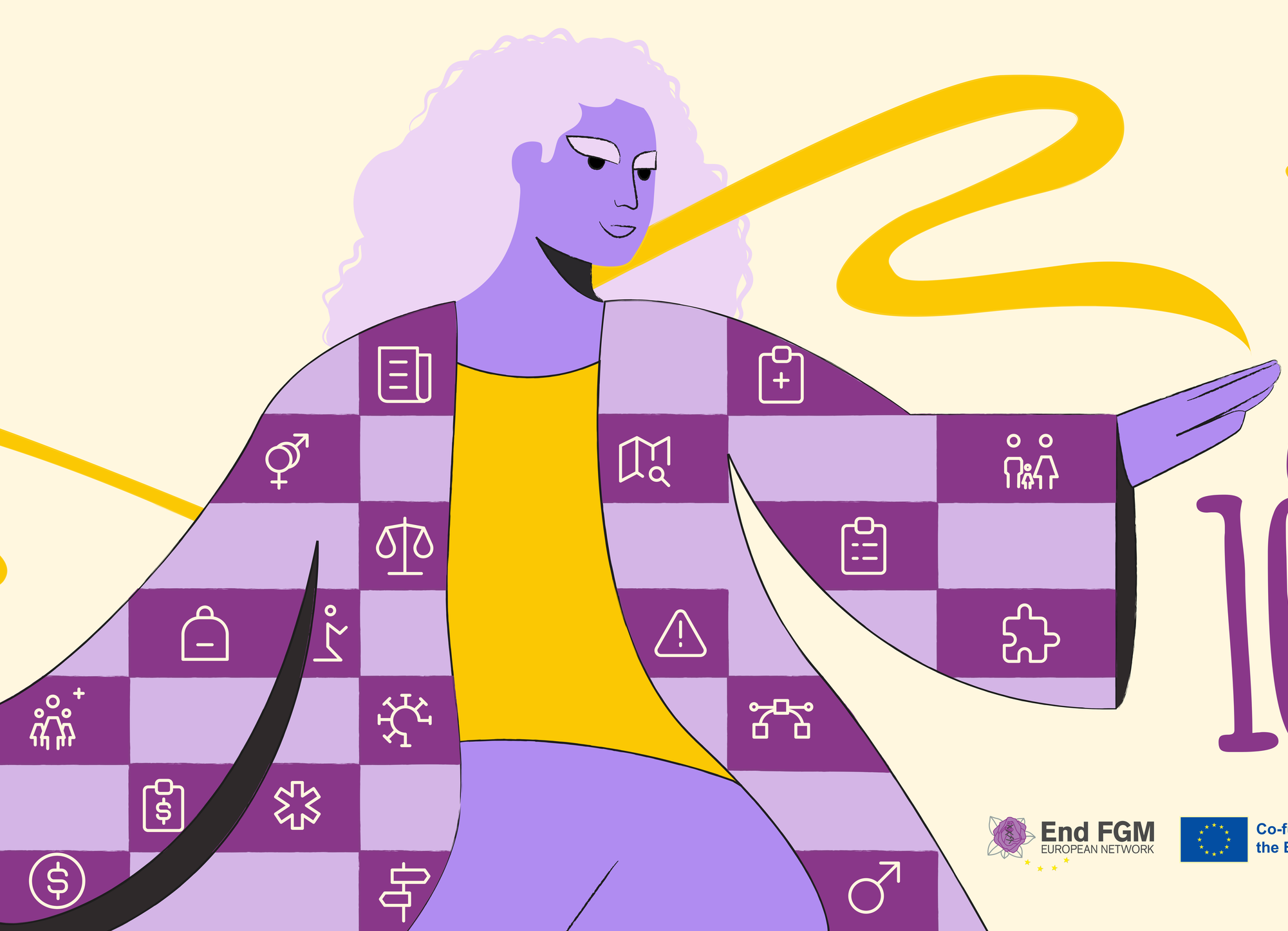
A week-long series of EU-level events and meetings focused on celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child (October 11). This coalition brings youth advocates into direct contact with EU decision-makers, promoting girls' rights on a global scale.

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.



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End FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK
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For a sustainable future