

INTACT E-NEWSLETTER **SPECIAL ISSUE** FGM Highlights for 2009

Dear INTACT Members,

The year 2009 had witnessed a bundle of interesting happenings in the field of FGM. A lot of effort had been exerted to bring the harmful tradition to an end. UN agencies, governments of different countries, Anti-FGM activists and many more strived to contribute to eradicate FGM by taking a number of positive steps such as holding conferences, producing documentaries, issuing legislations, publishing books and last but not least releasing reports. In this special issue of INTACT E-Newsletter, we aimed at bringing you an insightful and comprehensive glimpse of the most important FGM-related accomplishments to your fingertips, only a click-away! We hope that this issue would bring you inspirations and lessons-learned to help you with your valuable work. Happy New Year Everyone; we deeply wish that 2010 witnesses radical changes to realize the full abandonment of FGM.

We are also pleased to announce that INTACT Network is starting a new phase that will witness several revamped services and activities to serve you better. INTACT'S website is currently being reconstructed to present you a wealth of FGM-related information in English, French and Arabic. Not only that, but we would also like to announce that INTACT will be hosting an **FGM Online Discussion Community**, which will serve as a platform for dialogue and communication on FGM for researchers, activists, program specialists, NGO staff, and others who are involved in the quest against FGM.

To join the community, please click the following link:

<http://my.ibpinitiative.org/public/fgm>

The material featured in INTACT E-Newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of either INTACT Network or the Population Council.

Inside:

- **Africa:** Empathy and Rage: Female Genital Mutilation in African Literature
- **Africa:** Africa Rising Documentary Film
- **Belgium:** The International Conference on "The Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation in the EU"
- **Burkina Faso:** Clinic to Fight Taboo of Female Mutilation
- **Egypt:** Egypt Demographic and Health Survey (2008 EDHS)
- **Egypt:** Egypt makes first arrest over female circumcision
- **Ethiopia:** Expert Group Meeting on Good Practices in Legislation to Address Harmful Practices against Women, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- **Global:** Global Consultation on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Report
- **Global:** Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, Accelerating Change: 2008 Annual
- **Kenya:** A Religious Oriented Approach to Addressing Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting among the Somali Community of Wajir, Kenya (Revised Report)
- **Kenya:** Technical Consultation on the Medicalization of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
- **Kurdistan:** Combating female genital mutilation in Iraqi Kurdistan
- **Norway:** Effectiveness of Interventions Designed to Reduce the Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
- **Sudan:** Sudanese Activists Slam Government Position on Female Genital Cutting
- **Switzerland:** Female Genital Cutting Raises Childbirth Risks
- **Uganda:** Uganda Bans Female Circumcision
- **UK:** FGM is always with us - Experiences Perceptions and Beliefs of Women Affected by Female Genital Mutilation in London
- **UK:** FORWARD Releases an Information Services and Support Guide for Young People in the UK
- **UK:** Thousands Of Girls Mutilated In Britain

<<<<<The message below includes attached link>>>>>

Africa: Empathy and Rage: Female Genital Mutilation in African Literature

May 2009

The book is Co-Edited by *Tobe Levin* and *Augustine H. Asaah*

This literature collection is considered to be the first for scholars to analyze this subject as a theme in literature. In an unusual symbiosis, activism and scholarship join hands to hasten the end of this egregious human rights abuse. The collection examines representations in creative writing by African and African-Americans including *Nura Abdi, Mariama Barry, Calixthe Beyala, Osman Conteh, Waris Dirie, Nuruddin Farah, Fatou Keita, Fadumo Korn, Ahmadou Kourouma, Christian Mambou, Nawal El Saadawi, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Awa Thiam and Alice Walker. et al.* In their efforts to end FGM, the governments of Germany, the UK, Italy and the European Union (Brussels) have drawn on the expertise of *Tobe Levin* who has written many articles and chapters for books on FGM. Empathy and Rage - these words bracket a spectrum of feelings people confront when they think about the millions of women and girls who have undergone *bolokoli, takhoundi, tukore, or gudni'in* - names in local languages for a procedure that mutilates women's private parts or Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Contributors to the collection include: *Anne V. Adams, Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, Muthoni Mathai, Marianne Sarkis* and a translation from the French of contributor *Herzberger-Fofana's* obituary placing it in the context of the work as a dedication to *Sembene Ousmane*, a true African pioneer of the exposure of this practice through film.

To order the book, please visit

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0955507944?tag=thefgmeducatioan&camp=14573&creative=327641&linkCode=as1&creativeASIN=0955507944&adid=0M2Q2EFSNVZY1CJ7PYJ&>

Africa: Africa Rising Documentary Film

2009, 62 minutes, Color; English, French, Somali, Swahili; English Subtitles

Beautifully directed by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker *Paula Heredia*, AFRICA RISING travels through remote villages in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Somalia and Tanzania, weaving together dynamic footage and the poignant stories of girls personally affected by FGM to show how African women and men are putting an end to this human rights violation. From working with circumcisers to lay down their knives and engaging the police to implement the law to honing leadership skills in girls, these determined activists have been working tirelessly for years to creatively and resourcefully conceptualize a broad-based but little-known anti-FGM movement. AFRICA RISING paints an intimate portrait of courageous individuals with dignity and strength, whose passion for justice shows that individuals can change the course of history.

Africa Rising Official Website:

<http://www.africarisingthefilm.com/HOME.html>

To order and view a clip of the documentary, please visit:

<http://www.wmm.com/advscripts/wmmvideo.aspx?pid=55>

Belgium: The International Conference on "The Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation in the EU"

April 2009

EURONET-FGM in cooperation with No Peace Without Justice and the Transnational Non Violent Radical Party organized the “International Conference on the Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation in the EU”. The conference was held from 15-17 April 2009 in Brussels, Belgium. It took place in the European Parliament (EP), under the patronage of *Mrs Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou*, vice-president of the EP, Belgian Socialist *MEP Anne Van Lancker* and Italian Radical *MEP Marco Cappato*, with the support of the European Commission and the Belgian International Cooperation (DGOS). The meeting brought together key international figures, ministers, parliamentarians, representatives of UN agencies and civil society activists from Europe and African countries affected by the practice, who have played a key role in the battle for the eradication of FGM in recent years.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and consolidate the commitments and most successful initiatives undertaken in the framework of the National Action Plans for the elimination of female genital mutilation established and developed in 15 EU countries during the past two years, with the ultimate goal of the complete eradication of the practice of FGM in the near future.

For more information:

<http://www.npwj.org/No+Peace+Without+Justice/Newsroom/Press+Releases/15+april+2009:+Euronet-FGM+Conference>

Burkina Faso: Clinic to Fight Taboo of Female Mutilation

11 May 2009

(The National)- Africa’s first clinic designated for the reconstruction of female genitalia will open in *Bobo-Dioulasso* this year. The clinic will offer free reconstructive surgery to women from across West Africa. About 70 per cent of Burkina Faso’s seven million women are victims of female genital mutilation (FGM), a deep-rooted practice in West Africa. The ritual, common in a stretch between Senegal and Benin, can cause complications such as serious infections, excessive bleeding and stillbirths.

<http://www.thenational.ae/article/20090511/FOREIGN/705109870/1017/NEWS>

Egypt: Egypt Demographic and Health Survey (2008 EDHS)

2009

Chapter 15 of the 2008 EDHS is dedicated to “Female Circumcision”

Results from EDHS 2008 show a decline in proportion of girls who were circumcised (compared to their mothers) but an increase in proportion of those who were circumcised by medical personnel. The 2008 EDHS obtained information from all survey respondents on their circumcision status. The survey also asked all ever-married women about the circumcision status of their daughters’ age 17 and younger. The report shows that 91 percent of all women age 15-49 have been circumcised while the total expected prevalence of circumcision at age 18 was found to be 57 percent. Regarding the person performing the daughter’s circumcision, trained medical personnel performed almost three-quarters of the circumcisions. *Dayas* (traditional birth attendants) performed the majority of the remaining circumcisions. *Dayas* performed more circumcisions in rural Upper Egypt than in other areas; however, even in rural Upper Egypt, the majority of circumcisions were performed by medical personnel.

For Further Information:

<http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR220/FR220.pdf>

Egypt: Egypt makes first arrest over female circumcision

14 Aug 2009

(Al Arabiya)- An Egyptian man has been charged with illegally circumcising a young girl, making him the first person to face the law since Cairo criminalized the controversial practice of female genital mutilation, or FGM. *Ahmed Gad al-Karim*, 69, was charged with inflicting injury on an 11-year-old girl after a local hospital notified the police when the young girl was brought in suffering from heavy bleeding following a circumcision.

<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2009/08/13/81698.html>

Ethiopia: Expert Group Meeting on Good Practices in Legislation to Address Harmful Practices against Women, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

25 - 28 May 2009

The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDAW/DESA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) convened an expert group meeting on good practices in legislation to address harmful practices. The expert group meeting was a follow up to an expert group meeting organized by UNDAW/DESA and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna, from 26 to 28 May 2008, on good practices in legislation on violence against women. That meeting prepared a model framework for legislation on violence against women, including detailed recommendations, commentaries and examples of promising practices. The framework contains two types of recommendations: those that are applicable to all forms of violence against women; and those that are specific to domestic violence or sexual violence. The purpose of this expert group meeting was to further develop the Expert Group Meeting.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/v-egms-gplahpaw.htm>

Global: Global Consultation on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Report

2009

This publication contains rich research findings concerning global trends and the prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting and its linkages with maternal and newborn health. It describes changing patterns and practices, including medicalization, and analyzes the threat FGM/C poses to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals as well as its economic and health costs. It identifies important lessons and discusses in detail case studies as well as the application of theories as a basis for accelerating the abandonment process.

It also addresses the needs for closing gaps in law enforcement, building capacity, mobilizing resources and building global partnerships. This extensive knowledge -- which was shared by research institutions, foundations, lawyers, medical professionals, religious scholars, development partners and NGOs -- would be difficult to find elsewhere.

http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2008/fgm_2008.pdf

Global: Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, Accelerating Change: 2008 Annual Report

2009

The goal of this Joint Programme is to contribute to the accelerated abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting in 17 countries in Africa by creating a rapid shift in social norms. This annual report documents achievements, challenges and expenditures in the programme's first year, and presents recommendations for moving forward. A [companion brochure](#) provides background information about the issue and the joint programme.

In 2008, the Joint Programme was implemented in eight countries: Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Senegal and Sudan. It eventually aims to cover nine others, including Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda.

For more information:

http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2009/unfpa_unicef_fgmc_report.pdf

Kenya: A Religious Oriented Approach to Addressing Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting among the Somali Community of Wajir, Kenya (Revised Report)

2009

The Population Council's FRONTIERS programme has developed a religious oriented approach to address the practice of FGM/C among the Somali ethnic community living in *Wajir* district of North Eastern Province in Kenya. This approach was developed to respond to the community's stand on FGM/C, which is most commonly presented as being an Islamic requirement within the Somali culture. Community members had indicated that they were ready to listen to religious scholars and would be prepared to stop any practices that are not in line with Islamic teachings. To be able to do so, it was important that religious scholars within this community clarify among themselves the correct position of Islam on FGM/C. This was undertaken through facilitating a critical evaluation of the evidence cited by proponents of FGM/C, to demonstrate that there is actually no Islamic basis to the practice. Discussions around this have concluded that proponents mostly rely on *ahadith* that are either weak or unrelated to FGM/C. Weak *ahadith* cannot be relied on to guide Muslims in their behaviour, especially if they contain anything that is harmful to the well-being of people, as is the case with FGM/C. Deeper analyses of Islamic teachings can help counter the practice by showing that it is actually in violation of Islamic Shariah.

For full Report:

http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/reports/Kenya_Somali_FGC.pdf

Kenya: Technical Consultation on the Medicalization of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

20 July 2009 - 22 July 2009

A Technical Consultation meeting on the Medicalization of FGM took place last July in Nairobi, Kenya. The [Technical Consultation](#) focused on galvanizing the support of the medical professional and paramedical personnel at the highest policy level towards the abandonment of FGM/C. Thus the result of the Consultation would be clear strategies to support health professionals and to enforce a medical code of ethics on the medicalization of FGM/C, including re-infibulation. Egypt, Guinea, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan and Yemen were the participating countries.

For further information:

<http://www.unfpa.org/public/site/global/lang/en/pid/2942>

Kurdistan: Combating female genital mutilation in Iraqi Kurdistan

4 Aug 2009

(Kurdish Herald)_ As the first organization in Iraqi Kurdistan to open a women's shelter, WADI is an authority on women's issues in the region, an area of great concern to any activist or observer concerned with true democratization and respect for human rights. In a region plagued by various issues of gender discrimination, WADI has devoted much of its efforts as of late to one particular, serious issue: female genital mutilation. This phenomenon has been widely discussed over the last few years in Kurdistan; although no one has ever provided any real data regarding the number of Kurdish women who have been victimized in this awful way. This changed in 2003, when WADI sent out teams of workers to knock on the door of every house and ask the women if they had been "circumcised".

<http://www.stopfgmkurdistan.org/html/english/articles/article033e.htm>

Norway: Effectiveness of Interventions Designed to Reduce the Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

6 Nov 2009

In November 2008, the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies commissioned the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services to do a systematic review about the effectiveness of interventions to prevent female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). The review answers the question: What is the effectiveness of interventions designed to reduce the prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting compared to no or any other intervention.

Efforts to abandon the practice of FGM/C in Africa have used several different approaches, including those based on human rights frameworks, a health risk approach, training health workers as change agents, and the use of comprehensive social development approaches. Although there are indications of the effectiveness of some anti-FGM/C interventions in achieving changes in knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, behaviors and practices related to FGM/C, systematic appraisal of the evidence is lacking. Further, much research has used observational designs that make it difficult to draw causal inferences, thus hampering valid conclusions about the effects of these interventions.

For Full Report, Visit:

<http://www.kunnskapssenteret.no/Publikasjoner/7567.cms?threepage=1>

Sudan: Sudanese Activists Slam Government Position on Female Genital Cutting

8 Feb 2009

(Sudan Tribune)- Right activists slammed a decision by the Sudanese cabinet to drop an article banning the practice of female genital cutting in the country. The government took its decision in accordance with an Islamic fatwa on the issue. The Council of Ministers on February 5 dropped the article (13) of the draft Children's Act of 2009, which provides for the ban of female genital mutilation as part of other customs and traditions harmful to the health of the child, and after approval of the draft Children's Act 2009. The cabinet decided to drop the article (13), which deals with female circumcision, taking into account the advisory opinion of the Islamic *Fiqh* Academy, which distinguish between harmful circumcision or infibulation (Pharaonic circumcision) and the circumcision of *Sunna*, a less extensive procedure.

http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?page=imprimable&id_article=30099

Switzerland: Female Genital Cutting Raises Childbirth Risks

12 Aug 2009

(Reuters)- Pregnant women who underwent female genital cutting as girls are at increased risk of needing an emergency Cesarean section or suffering serious tears during childbirth, a new study finds. In the new study, doctors at the University of Berne, in Switzerland, followed 122 pregnant women with a history of genital mutilation who received prenatal care at their medical center. They compared their childbirth outcomes with 110 other women the same age, who delivered at the hospital.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE57B5JC20090812>

Uganda: Uganda Bans Female Circumcision

14 Dec 2009

(CNN)- The Ugandan parliament unanimously passed a bill banning female genital mutilation, a traditional rite that has sparked an international outcry and is practiced in some African and Asian communities. In some communities in eastern Uganda, it is practiced in girls up to age 15. Convicted offenders face 10 years in prison, but if the girl dies during the act, those involved will get a life sentence, according to officials in the east African country.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/africa/12/12/uganda.genital.mutilation/>

UK: FGM is always with us - Experiences Perceptions and Beliefs of Women Affected by Female Genital Mutilation in London

26 August 2009

This was a qualitative peer study conducted with women in London in July and August 2008. The aim of the research was to gain in-depth insights from women originally from high-prevalence FGM countries, and currently living in and around Westminster. The participatory research process allowed women to articulate problems and priorities from their point of view. The study looked at the impact of FGM on the lives of affected women, to see how these women interact with health services and to understand their feelings about the practice of FGM.

For Full Report:

<http://www.forwarduk.org.uk/news/news/563>

UK: FORWARD Releases an Information Services and Support Guide for Young People in the UK

August 2009

The guide is produced as a resource for use in schools by young people and adults, who work with young people. It provides basic information on FGM and related health and social issues. It aims to increase awareness of the law, in addition to child protection issues. It also offers ideas for helping girls at risk of FGM. The guide provides information of specialist health and support services in the UK.

To download the Guide:

<http://www.forwarduk.org.uk/news/news/564>

UK: Thousands Of Girls Mutilated In Britain

16 March 2009

(Times Online)- The NHS is to advertise free operations to reverse female circumcisions, with experts warning that each year more than 500 British girls have their genitals mutilated. Despite having been outlawed in 1985, female circumcision is still practiced in British African communities, in some cases on girls as young as 5. Police have been unable to bring a single prosecution even though they suspect that community elders are being flown from the Horn of Africa to carry out the procedures. A study by the Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development (Forward), estimated that 66,000 women living in England and Wales had been circumcised, most before leaving their country of origin. The government-funded research also found that more than 7,000 girls were at a high risk of being subjected to genital mutilation in Britain.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/health/article5913979.ece

****Thank you for Reading****