



**INTACT Quarterly E-Newsletter  
October, November & December 2010**

*Dear INTACT Members,*

Welcome to the last issue of INTACT newsletter for 2010!

In this issue of INTACT Quarterly E-Newsletter, we have covered FGM information from the past 3 months to give you a glimpse of the most important happenings.

We wish you a happy New Year!

Enjoy reading !

*(This Issue of INTACT E-Newsletter is funded by UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM)*

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**Colombia:** Colombian Indigenous group vows to stop FGM

November 2010

(FIGO) - A Colombian indigenous group, the Embera, have said they will stop practicing female genital mutilation (FGM). According to Colombia Reports, the practice was widespread in the community and performed on young girls, reports El Tiempo. With help from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Embera has decided to suspend FGM and research the cultural origins of it

<http://www.igo.org/news/colombian-indigenous-group-vows-stop-female-genital-mutilation-003056>

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## **Egypt: Banning the cutting up**

December 2010

On 24 November Egypt joined international human rights activists to appeal to the UN to pass a ban on FGM. Appeal signatories are asking that FGM be condemned and recognised as a violation of the human right to physical integrity. A UN ban would give new strength and impetus to the efforts that are still needed to end the practice worldwide.

Minister of State for Family and Population Mushira Khattab, who signed the appeal on behalf of Egypt, said the move was directed mainly at the 65th session of the General Assembly which will convene later this month. The global launch, according to Khattab, will provide a platform for the exchange of experiences and commitment in fighting FGM. It will also constitute the occasion for a major involvement of the international community to support the partnership strategy plan to end FGM in 2010, as part of the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2010/1025/eg19.htm>

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## **Egypt: Survey of Young People in Egypt**

(Population Council) - The Survey of young people in Egypt (SYPE) highlights the findings from a nationally representative survey of young people in Egypt aged 10-29. SYPE was fielded in 2009 and did a complete situation analysis of 15,029 young people aged 10 to 29 years old from 11,372 families. The survey seeks to update the state of knowledge about young people in Egypt and to inform policy makers on matters relating to this group. Main topics include health, education, employment, migration, marriage, and civic participation.

The module on health included some questions about female genital mutilation/cutting. Three-quarters of female respondents are circumcised. Most respondents (64 percent) think the practice is necessary.

To download the health chapter:

[http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/2010PGY\\_SYPEFinalReport\\_2.pdf](http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/2010PGY_SYPEFinalReport_2.pdf)

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**Global: From Commitment to Action: What Religious Communities can do to Eliminate Violence Against Children**

(UNICEF) - UNICEF recently published From Commitment to Action: What Religious Communities Can Do to Eliminate Violence against Children that outlines practical ways in which religious leaders, theologians, educators, community mobilizers and others can respond to violence directed toward children in keeping with the recommendations of the 2006 United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children. Religious communities are uniquely positioned to prevent and respond to violence against children, including FGM/C. They are key actors in the process of social change as with their extraordinary moral authority, they can influence thinking, foster dialogue and set priorities for members of their communities.

To Download Full Report

[http://www.unicef.org/media/files/What\\_Religious\\_Communities\\_can\\_do\\_to\\_Eliminate\\_Violence\\_against\\_Children\\_\(UNICEF\\_Religions\\_for\\_Peace\\_Guide\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/media/files/What_Religious_Communities_can_do_to_Eliminate_Violence_against_Children_(UNICEF_Religions_for_Peace_Guide).pdf)

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**Global: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Data and Trends-Update 2010**

(PRB) - An estimated 100 million to 140 million girls and women worldwide have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and more than 3 million girls are at risk for cutting each year on the African continent alone.

To Download Full Report

<http://www.prb.org/pdf10/fgm-wallchart2010.pdf>

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**Global: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: a UNICEF/Innocenti video**

(UNICEF/INNOCENTI) - Victims of Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting (FGM/C), and activists, share their insights and personal stories from Africa and Europe. Together they make a compelling case for the abandonment of FGM/C. This UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre documentary is in support of the Innocenti report, "The Dynamics of Social Change. Towards the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in five African countries".

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsdeI5JkbEo&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsdeI5JkbEo&feature=player_embedded)

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**Global: The Dynamics of Social Change: Towards the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in 5 African Countries**

(UNICEF) - A new report provides evidence on how communities across Africa are ending female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), despite strong countervailing social pressures. The Dynamics of Social Change: Towards the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in Five African Countries (Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and Sudan) - from UNICEF's Innocenti Research Centre - provides solutions and examples of communities ending the practice. The report examines what conditions are necessary for a consensus to abandon FGM/C and identifies strategies for sustainable abandonment.

To Download Full Report

[http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/fgm\\_insight\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/fgm_insight_eng.pdf)

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**Iraq: Demand to outlaw female circumcision in Kurdistan**

October 2010

(AKnews) - The Kurdistan Health Ministry has planned for a conference on female circumcision practice in Kurdistan and a demand to the Kurdistan Region's Fatwa Committee to veto the phenomenon will follow the conference, said an official Saturday.

<http://www.aknews.com/en/aknews/1/192177>

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**Iraq: Iraqi Kurdistan confronts Female Genital Mutilation**

December 2010

(Hudson New York) - As reported to the Centre for Islamic Pluralism by the non-governmental organization Stop FGM in Kurdistan, the Kurdistan

Regional Government (KRG) in northern Iraq, on 25 November, officially admitted the wide prevalence in the territory of female genital mutilation (FGM). Recognition by the KRG of the frequency of this repellent custom among Kurds came during a conference program commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

<http://www.hudson-ny.org/1708/iraqi-kurdistan-female-genital-mutilation>

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### **Malaysia: The Practice of Female Genital Mutilation Among The Rural Malays in North Malaysia**

Although FGM is illegal in Malaysia, Malays who comprise about 60% of the population are known to practice both male circumcision and FGM. A hospital based study in Malaysia has shown FGM to be a common practice among the Malays but with no clinical evidence of injury to the clitoris or the labia and no physical sign of excised tissue. The objective of this study was to determine the practice of FGM among rural Malay women living in north Malaysia.

[http://www.ispub.com/journal/the\\_internet\\_journal\\_of\\_third\\_world\\_medicine/volume\\_9\\_number\\_1\\_15/article/the-practice-of-female-genital-mutilation-among-the-rural-malays-in-north-malaysia.html](http://www.ispub.com/journal/the_internet_journal_of_third_world_medicine/volume_9_number_1_15/article/the-practice-of-female-genital-mutilation-among-the-rural-malays-in-north-malaysia.html)

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### **Nigeria: FGM: The unkindest cut of**

October 2010

(Daily Sun) - It is lamentable that several years after Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) became a public health issue that attracted intense advocacy and public education on its harmful effects, medical experts and other stakeholders in the health sector have raised another alarm on its increasing incidence in the country.

<http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/opinion/editorial/2010/oct/31/editorial-31-10-2010-001.htm>

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## **Switzerland : Female Genital Mutilation will be punishable offence in Switzerland**

December 2010

(FIGO) - Female genital mutilation (FGM) has been made a punishable offence in Switzerland. The Swiss parliament voted last week to change the penal code in the country, attempting to outlaw the practice, according to the Deutsche Presse-Agentur, reported by M&C.

<http://www.figo.org/news/female-genital-mutilation-will-be-punishable-offence-switzerland-003127>

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## **Tanzania: Mass FGM ceremonies planned in Tanzania**

December 2010

(afrol News) - While Tanzania outlawed female genital mutilation (FGM) in 1998, mass FGM ceremonies are still going on, in particular in the November-January season. Activists expect over 5,000 girls to be cut "this holiday season".

<http://www.afrol.com/articles/37031>

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## **Uganda: Uganda calls for Africa to outlaw FGM**

December 2010

(FIGO) - Uganda has called for the whole of Africa to stop the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). The country's state minister for gender Rukia Nakadema called for a widespread ban, claiming its own outlawing of the act could not be successful if its neighbouring countries continued the practice, reports New Vision.

<http://www.figo.org/news/uganda-calls-africa-outlaw-female-genital-mutilation-003121>

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

### **INTACT Network**

**The International Network to Analyze, Communicate and Transform the Campaign against FGM/C (INTACT), is an international group of researchers, scholars, and activists committed to bringing scientific evidence to bear on the campaign to end FGM/C. INTACT serves as a forum for FGM/C debate and helps bridge gaps in knowledge and information relevant to FGM/C on the local and the international levels. INTACT helps communicate lessons learned, disseminate research, and promotes the utilization of research findings to assist in the campaign against FGM/C.**

**INTACT is managed by the Population Council.**

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