



**INTACT Quarterly E-Newsletter
Special Edition
February 6th, 2011**

Dear INTACT Members,

Welcome to this special edition of INTACT e-newsletter!

In this issue of INTACT E-Newsletter, we celebrate Zero Tolerance Day by reviewing key events that took place in the area of FGM legislations and policies in 2010. Enjoy reading!

We would also like to use this opportunity to make two announcements.

- The English interface of INTACT website (www.intact-network.net) has been officially launched today! Launching of the Arabic and French interfaces will be announced shortly. The website contains many resources on FGM (reports, journal articles, videos, books, IEC materials, factsheets..etc). At this stage the website includes recent resources on FGM , while we continue to upload older material. You are more than welcome to contribute material to enrich the website. The INTACT website has been funded by the UNICEF-UNFPA Joint Program on FGM, the Wallace Global Fund, and Population Council).
- INTACT is organizing an online discussion forum on Public declarations on abandonment of FGM (February 14-22). To participate in the forum you can log onto INTACT website and click forums. We look forward to your valuable input to this discussion.

(This Issue of INTACT E-Newsletter is funded by Population Council)

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Africa/Regional: Dakar Inter-parliamentary Conference on FGM: "Towards the ban of the practice at the United Nations"

3-4 May 2010

The Inter-parliamentary Conference "To Harmonize the Legal Instruments Prohibiting FGM: Consolidating the Achievements, Sharing the Successes, Pursuing the Advancements! Towards the Ban of the Practice at the United Nations", held on 3-4 May 2010 in the premises of the *Conseil Economique et Social*, in **Dakar**, was organized by the Ministry of Family Affairs of Senegal in partnership with the international NGO No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) and the Senegalese Organization *La Palabre*, with the financial support of Italian Cooperation, UNOPS, UNFPA and the Municipality of Rome. The Conference, which saw among others the participation of *Emma Bonino*, Vice-President of the Italian Senate and founder of NPWJ, gathered parliamentarians, civil society activists and government representatives from Senegal and the other 27 African countries affected by the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM), as well as representatives of the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the ECOWAS Parliamentary Assembly, the East African Legislative Assembly, and the relevant United Nations specialized agencies.

The Dakar Inter-parliamentary Conference concluded with the adoption of a **Final Declaration** stressing the need to work for a universal ban on FGM. The Final Declaration calls for the adoption of a resolution explicitly banning FGM worldwide as a violation of human rights of women and girls during the 65th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

For more information:

[http://www.npwj.org/FGM/Dakar-Inter-parliamentary-Conference-FGM-
\"Towards-ban-practice-United-Nations\".html](http://www.npwj.org/FGM/Dakar-Inter-parliamentary-Conference-FGM-\)

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 recognized 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>

Global: Legislative reform to support the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting

(UNICEF) - The development and enforcement of legislation intended to bring an end to harmful practices that are accepted and even upheld within society poses a set of specific challenges. This paper presents the key features of a comprehensive legislative framework to support the abandonment of FGM/C. It also provides specific guidance on the content of the legislation, and its relationship to the process of social change that it is meant to support.

To Download the Full Report:

http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/files/UNICEF__LRI_Legislative_Reform_to_support_the_Abandonment_of_FGMC_August_2010.pdf

Ireland: Female Genital Mutilation Bill 2010

15 April 2010

Irish Senator *Ivana Bacik* introduced a Bill to prohibit the act of Female Genital Mutilation in the *Seanad* during a discussion held with members of the Labor Party. The Bill is entitled to be an Act to provide for the offence of Female Genital Mutilation and related matters. The Irish Minister for Health and Children has welcomed the Bill, indicating that it will be read a second time in a year or so. "We urgently need a law specifically criminalizing this barbaric practice, which has destroyed the lives of so many girls and women world-wide. I welcome the Minister's commitment to address this issue, but there has already been a great deal of work done on developing a legal framework, and delaying the introduction of this legislation by another year is unacceptable", commented *Bacik*.

The Bill and its Explanatory Memorandum are available here:

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=14752&&CatID=59>

For more information:

AkiDwA Welcomes New Female Genital Mutilation Bill 2010

<http://www.akidwa.ie/AkiDwA%20welcomes%20new%20Female%20Genital%20Mutilation%20Bill%202010.pdf>

Mauritania: Mauritanian Muslim Imams Initiate Rare Ban on Female Circumcision

21 Jan 2010

(Reuters) - Human rights campaigners who have been struggling for years to eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM) in West Africa got a boost this week as news emerged that a group of Muslim clerics and scholars in Mauritania had declared a fatwa, or religious decree, against the practice. About 72 percent of the women in Mauritania have undergone FGM which health workers say often causes severe bleeding, problems urinating and potential complications during childbirth.

http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/58388/2010/00/21-170431-1.htm

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>

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 Nakadama 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>

Uganda: Uganda Police Arrests Two over Female Genital Mutilation

10 June 2010 I don't think this is important, let's drop

(The Female Genital Cutting Education & Networking Project) - Uganda Police in *Looro* Sub County, *Moroto* district have arrested two people over conducting banned female genital mutilation practice. Female genital mutilation is a common cultural practice among *Sebei*, *Pokot* and *Tepeth* ethnic groups. Female genital mutilation is outlawed in Uganda and any person that practices or promotes this practice commits an offence. The spokesperson of Police, *Judith Nabakooba* says the suspects arrested will be prosecuted in courts of law.

For more information:

http://www.fgmnetwork.org/gonews.php?subaction=showfull&id=1276191793&archive=&start_from=&ucat=1&

USA: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Policy Statement on Ritual Genital Cutting of female Minors

5 May 2010

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has been under fire by the media and activists worldwide for their statement on female genital mutilation published in the journal *Pediatrics* on April 26. The statement would allow American doctors to perform a ceremonial pinprick or "nick" on girls from those countries that practice FGM if this would keep their families from sending them overseas for the full circumcision. The above statement triggered strong criticism from local and international NGOs, professional associations as well as African women themselves. The policy statement was considered as promoting FGM rather than limiting it, since it allowed the performance of a 'mild' form of the practice under the notion of "Cultural Sensitivity". This resulted in retracting the statement and amending it into a more acceptable one. In the same day the AAP published its new recommendation, the Girls Protection Act, which would make it illegal to take a minor outside the U.S. to seek female circumcision, was introduced in Congress (article included at the end of the E-Newsletter). In a release issued on the new Policy Statement, the AAP stated that it has "retired" its 2010 revised statement on FGM, is opposed to "all forms of female genital cutting" and "does not endorse the practice of offering a 'clitoral nick.'" A link to the new Policy Statement is added below to give you full information from the complete and final document.

AAP Policy Statement Ritual Genital Cutting of Female Minors

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/peds.2010-0187v1>

The following is a selection of reaction articles & Statements made in response to the AAP policy statements:

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Is Advocating for U.S. Pediatricians to Perform Certain Types of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Says Equality Now

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/american-academy-of-pediatrics-aap-isadvocating-for-us-pediatricians-to-perform-certain-types-of-female-genital-mutilationfgm->

[92871624.html](#)

EQUALITY NOW Welcomes the Decision by American Academy of Pediatrics to withdraw its 2010 Policy Statement

http://www.equalitynow.org/english/pressroom/press_releases/aapwithdrawal_20100527_en.html

Regarding the "Policy Statement – Ritual Genital Cutting of Female Minors" from the American Academy of Pediatrics (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA & UNIFEM)

http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/fgm/fgm_app_statement.pdf

Statement by the FIGO President On Medicalization Of FGM

<http://www.figo.org/news/statement-figo-president-medicalisation-fgm>

Has a U.S. Pediatrics Group Condoned Genital Cutting?

<http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1988434,00.html>

Group Backs Ritual 'Nick' as Female Circumcision Option

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/07/health/policy/07cuts.html>

USA: U.S. Bill Would Outlaw FGM "Holidays"

12 June 2010

(IPS) - The U.S. currently lags behind several Western European countries in closing a legislative loophole banning the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) beyond its borders to protect U.S. citizens and residents; this may soon change.

The "Girls Protection Act" would make it illegal to transport a minor abroad for the purpose of FGM. Introduced by members of Congress *Joseph Crowley* and *Mary Bono Mack* as a bipartisan initiative, the bill is now awaiting review in a congressional committee. The bill will also be coupled with community outreach and educational programmes to shore up awareness on the link between FGM and many serious health complications.

For more information:

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=51802>

*****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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