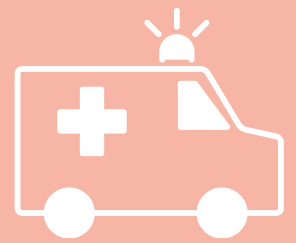




FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, REPAIR, PROTECT, SUPPORT

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, WHAT IS IT?



Female genital mutilation is a violation of the fundamental rights of girls and women. It is an attack on their physical integrity. It is a harmful traditional practice.

This refers to any procedure performed on the external female sexual organs for no medical reason:

- **Excision:** total or partial removal of the clitoral glans (small, sensitive, erectile part of the female sexual organs) and, more rarely, only of the prepuce (fold of skin surrounding the glans clitoris).
- **Infibulation:** total or partial removal of the clitoral glans, labia minora and labia majora. The two sides of the vulva are then sewn together, so that only a tiny opening remains for the flow of urine and menstruation. The vulva gives way to a very hard scar, which will need to be incised at the time of sexual intercourse and/or childbirth.

WHAT ARE THE MEDICAL CONSEQUENCES?

Female genital mutilation has serious physical and psychological consequences, and can even lead to death.

THE IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCES

- Bleeding, which can be hemorrhagic and lead to death; girls have died following excision.
- Intense pain, accompanied by fear, anxiety and often psychotrauma.
- Burning when urinating.

THE CONSEQUENCES AT ANY TIME IN THE LIFE OF THE MUTILATED GIRL OR WOMAN

- Vulvar, urinary and gynaecological infections, which can develop into septicaemia and cause death or infertility.
- Difficult childbirth: a mutilated woman is much more likely to suffer another perineal tear. Both she and her unborn child are in mortal danger.
- Very painful sexual relations and/or lack of pleasure.
- Serious psychotraumatic repercussions: anguish, anxiety, depression, even suicide.

There are dedicated care paths for mutilated women (with or without "reconstructive" surgery - covered by social security). To be found on the dedicated page Ile-de-France regional plan to resist female genital mutilation: Ile-de-France directory on the website <https://federationgams.org/>





FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IS PROHIBITED AND PUNISHABLE UNDER FRENCH LAW.

The law protects all children living in France, whatever their nationality. French law applies to mutilation committed both in France and abroad.

The perpetrator of mutilation committed abroad, whether French or foreign, can be prosecuted in France, if the victim is of French nationality, or if the victim is a foreigner habitually resident in France (article 222-16-2 of the Penal Code).

The penalties laid down for the perpetrator of mutilation and for the person(s) responsible for the mutilated child are defined by the penal code, including :

- Violence resulting in permanent mutilation or disability is punishable **by 10 years' imprisonment and a fine of €150,000** (article 222-9).
- The penalty is **increased to 15 years if the permanent mutilation is committed on a minor under the age of 15** (article 222-10 of the French Penal Code), to **20 years if the perpetrator is a legitimate, natural or adoptive ascendant or parent**, or by any person with authority over the minor (article 222-10 of the French Penal Code), to **30 years if the mutilation results in death without intent to cause** (article 222-8 of the French Penal Code).

Two other offences (article 227-24-1 of the French Penal Code) are punishable by **five years' imprisonment and a fine of 75,000 euros**:

- “The fact of making offers or promises to a minor, or offering him or her gifts, presents or advantages of any kind, or using pressure or coercion of any kind against him or her, so that he or she submits to sexual mutilation when this mutilation has not been carried out”;
- Directly inciting others [...] to commit sexual mutilation on a minor, when the mutilation has not been performed”.

The victim **can lodge a complaint up to twenty years after reaching the age of majority**, i.e. up to the **age of 38**, to have the violence punished by the French courts. **The statute of limitations for public prosecution is 30 years** from the victim's majority **for the crime of violence against a minor under 15 years of age** resulting in permanent mutilation or disability.

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF A THREAT?



YOU ARE IN DANGER OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS.

In case of emergency, call 17 or 112 (police-gendarmerie).

- **3919** (Femmes Violences Info), free, anonymous telephone helpline.
- You can talk about it with a doctor, at the Protection Maternelle Infantile (PMI) center, at an Espace de vie affective, relationnelle et sexuelle (EVARS), at a Centre de Santé Sexuelles (CSS), or with a social worker.
- You can write to the public prosecutor at your local tribunal de grande instance. A ban on leaving the country may be ordered by the children's judge without the parents' authorization.
- You can contact **associations** that actively fight against these practices, such as GAMS (<https://federationgams.org/>)



WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF TRAVELING ABROAD?



YOU ARE AN EXILED MIGRANT

If your child, or the minor child for whom you are responsible, is at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) if returned to her country of origin, you can apply for asylum.

IF YOU ARE OF LEGAL AGE (OVER 18) AND ARE SEEKING ASYLUM BECAUSE OF A RISK OF SEXUAL MUTILATION

This request may also concern adult women who have not undergone FGM, women who have undergone partial mutilation, and women who have undergone reconstructive surgery in France and who fear being the victim of a new mutilation.

For further information:

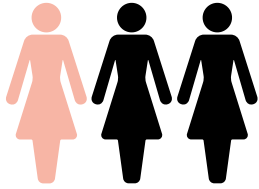
<https://www.ofpra.gouv.fr/la-prise-en-compte-des-vulnerabilites>



And in Europe?

Within the Council of Europe, the Istanbul Convention or Convention **on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence** of May 11, 2011, condemns any act of violence committed against a woman, justified by "culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called 'honor'".

In its **directive 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and domestic violence of May 14, 2024**, the European Union enshrines, in article 3, the obligation for member states to penalize practices such as excision, infibulation or any other mutilation of all or part of the labia majora, labias minora or clitoris, as well as forcing a woman or girl to undergo the latter.



1 woman out of 3

is concerned by female genital mutilation on the African continent.



That is 125 million women

Most of them are in Africa (144 million), Asia (80 million) and the Middle East (6 million).

4 million

new cases each year (source Unicef)

125 000 mutilated women

live in France (source MSF-Preval)

WHERE IS FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION PRACTICED?



IN MANY COUNTRIES, THESE PRACTICES ARE PROHIBITED AND PUNISHABLE BY LAW.

They are practiced in many countries, mainly in Africa (144 million), Asia (80 million) and the Middle East (6 million). (source Unicef)

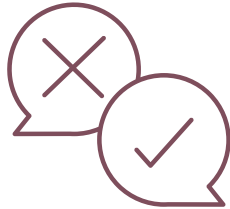
Migratory flows have led to the practice of this mutilation in several European countries. (1).

(1) Report by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) - Female genital mutilation in the EU and Croatia (March 2013).

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM



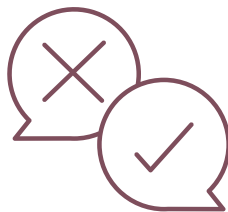
IT IS SAID THAT:
“Some religions impose female genital mutilation.”



THE TRUTH IS

No religion imposes female genital mutilation. It's a very old custom that doesn't comply with the precepts of any religion.

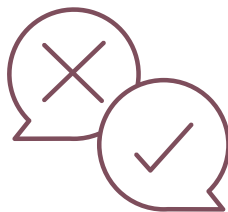
IT IS SAID THAT:
“Female genital mutilation makes women more fertile.”



THE TRUTH IS

On the contrary, they can lead to sterility or major complications during childbirth, which can result in the death of the newborn and/or the mother.

IT IS SAID THAT:
“Excision and infibulation are a sign a mark of respect for customs and traditions.”



THE TRUTH IS

Female genital mutilation has serious consequences for physical and mental health. It is a serious attack on the dignity, integrity and life of women.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Groupe pour l'abolition des mutilations sexuelles féminines (GAMS).

GAMS is recognized as the French partner of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children.

It focuses on informing families and training the professionals who work with them, in particular doctors, social workers and teachers.

☎ 01 43 48 10 87

www.federationgams.org

Le Planning Familial - Fédération Ile-de-France.

Family Planning welcomes and informs the public about sexual health issues.

☎ 01 48 07 29 10

www.planning-familial.org/fr/le-planning-familial-federation-idf-834

Fédération Régionale des CIDFF d'Ile-de-France.

CIDFFs welcome the public and promote access to rights and information for women, the fight against violence, and equality between women and men.

☎ 01 42 17 12 00

<https://iledefrance-fr.cidff.info>

This leaflet was produced in association with GAMS.



☎ 3919.

A telephone helpline to combat violence against women. It is anonymous, free and available 7 days a week.

Allô Enfance En Danger.

Free, anonymous telephone service, 24 hours a day.

☎ 119

💬 Tchat de l'Association En Avant Toutes.

<https://commentonsaime.fr/besoin-daide/le-tchat-pour-discuter>

💬 Tchat Signaler une violence conjugale, sexiste ou sexuelle.

<https://www.service-public.fr/cmi>

