

PARENTS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROTECT THEIR DAUGHTER

Who to contact in case of danger?

ABROAD?

- The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices: <http://www.iac-ciaf.net>
- List of Belgian Embassies abroad: <http://diplomatie.belgium.be>

IN BELGIUM?

- Free numbers: **1712** for particulars who want to complaint about violence or abuse (Flemish community) or **103** Ecoute Enfants (French community)
- INTACT: **+32 (0)499 83 29 42**

For all information on FGM, please contact following associations:

- GAMS Belgium: **+32 (0)2 219 43 40** - www.gams.be
- INTACT: **+32 (0)499 83 29 42** - www.intact-association.org
- Le Centre de Planning Familial des FPS de Liège: **+32 (0)4 223 13 73** - www.planningsfps.be

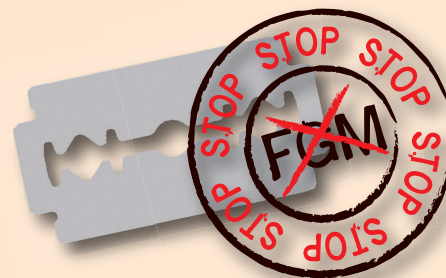


ENGLISH

THE BELGIAN LAW PROHIBITS

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Here and Abroad



Federal Public Service
Justice



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Federal Public Service
**Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation**



federal public service
**HEALTH, FOOD CHAIN SAFETY
AND ENVIRONMENT**

WHAT IS FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)?

This is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons.

WHY THIS DOCUMENT?

This document allows you to explain to your family that FGM is prohibited in Belgium and that you are at risk of imprisonment for excision of your daughter, even if this happened abroad.

Please feel free to keep this document with you when traveling to show it to your family if you're under pressure to follow this tradition.

THE HEALTH OF YOUNG GIRLS AND WOMEN

FGM has **serious health consequences** for girls and women.

Some effects may occur immediately, such as loss of blood and/or severe infections, which can lead in some cases to death. Other effects may occur later: painful menstruation, genital infections that can lead to infertility, painful intercourse, chronic urinary problems, complications during childbirth, but also anxiety and depression.

THE LAW PROHIBITS FGM

International law considers excision of girls and women as an inhuman and degrading treatment equivalent to torture. Every individual has the right to retain its physical and mental integrity.

In the world?

The Maputo Protocol (2003) in Africa requires that states should prohibit all forms of FGM, by legal measures and sanctions. In Senegal, Burkina Faso, Togo and the Ivory Coast this practice is prohibited by law.

And in Belgium?

FGM is also prohibited by the Belgian law and is considered as an abuse.

A prison sentence of 3 to 5 years is provided for "*anyone who has **participated in, facilitated or encouraged** any form of genital mutilation of a female person, or attempted to do so, with or without her consent*". If excision is performed on a girl under 18, the sentence can be heavier. Not only the author of excision may be prosecuted or punished in Belgium, also the accomplice can be prosecuted and punished. (art. 409 Penal Code Belgium)

Moreover, parents can also be prosecuted in Belgium if their daughter has been mutilated abroad. (art. 10 ter ClCr)