EU initiatives on violence against women

Emilie Jarrett, Gender Equality Unit

Directorate-General for Justice
European Commission’s commitment

- 2009 - Women's Charter
- 2010 - Action Plan Implementing the Stockholm Programme
- 2010 - Strategy for Equality between Women and Men
Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2010-2015

*Adopted on 21 September 2010*
Equal economic independence

Equal pay for equal work and work of equal value

Equality in decision-making

Dignity, integrity and an end to gender-based violence

Gender equality in external actions

Horizontal issues
Main priorities

LEGISLATION
- Trafficking
- Child abuse
- Minimum rights for victims
- European Protection Orders

DATA COLLECTION
- Fundamental Rights Agency
- EIGE
- Eurostat
- Member States

ELIMINATING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
- Knowledge
- Prevention
- Protection
- Prosecution

FUNDING
- DAPHNE III Programme
- PROGRESS Programme
- Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme
- Justice Programme
Towards the elimination of female genital mutilation

Commission Communication of 25/11/2013
**FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**

A procedure involving partial or total removal of women's or girls' external genitalia or other injury to their genital organs for non-medical reasons

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<tr>
<td>Clitoridectomy</td>
<td>Excision</td>
<td>Infibulation</td>
<td>All other harmful procedures</td>
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WHY?

- It brings status and respect to the girl.
- It preserves a girl’s virginity / chastity.
- It is part of being a woman.
- It gives a girl social acceptance, especially for marriage.
- It cleanses and purifies the girl.
- It gives the girl and her family a sense of belonging to the community.
- It perpetuates a tradition.
- It is cosmetically desirable.
- It is mistakenly believed to make childbirth safer for the infant.
- It upholds the family honour.
- It helps girls and women to be clean and hygienic.
- It is a rite of passage.
- It fulfils a religious requirement believed to exist.
CONSEQUENCES

- Severe pain
- Haemorrhage
- Injury to adjacent tissues
- Urinary retention
- Emotional and psychological shock
- Damage to other organs
- Wound infections
- Mental health and psychosexual problems
- Death during childbirth
- Increased risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections
- Complications in pregnancy
- Damage to the reproductive system including infertility
- Pain during sex and lack of pleasurable sensation
- Chronic infections
- Difficulties with menstruation
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Violation of women’s human rights

Violation of children's rights

Child abuse
MAIN ISSUES

- KNOWLEDGE
- EXTERNAL ACTIONS
- PREVENTION
- PROTECTION
- PROSECUTION
KNOWLEDGE

CHALLENGES

- 125 million victims worldwide
- 500,000 victims in the EU
- How many of girls at risk?
- Circumstances of mutilations?

MEASURES

- Specific indicators
- Methodology
- Survey and research
PREVENTION - PROMOTING SOCIAL CHANGE & MULTIDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION

CHALLENGES
- A deep-rooted social norm
- Girls need protection
- Survivors of FGM need support
- Professionals need knowledge

MEASURES
- NGOs activities
- Targeted awareness-raising
- Empowering migrant women
- Training for professionals
- Strengthen child protection systems
- Reporting
PROSECUTION

FACTS
- A crime in all Member States
- Provisions of extra-territoriality
- Prosecutions are rare

MEASURES
- Analyse criminal laws and court cases related to FGM
- Training for legal practitioners
- Enforce the rights of victims of crime
PROTECTION

FACTS

• International protection
• Gender sensitive asylum procedures
• Gender sensitive reception conditions

MEASURES

• Transposition and implementation of EU legislation
• Gender sensitive training tools and country of origin information
ELIMINATION OF FGM GLOBALLY

MEASURES

• Dialogue with relevant partner countries
• Training for staff working in EU-delegations
• Work closely with the African Union and African group
IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, EVALUATION

MEASURES

• Monitoring by an ad hoc group of the Commission’s inter-service group on gender equality

• Regular consultation of NGOs and experts active in this field
MORE INFORMATION?