

MEDICALISATION IS...



...A THREAT TO THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OF WOMEN & GIRLS



...A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION



...A BREACH OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS



...ABSENT OF INFORMED CONSENT



...A FORM OF CHILD ABUSE

“FGM changes lives. It changed mine when I was six years old and causes lifelong pain and difficulty whether or not it is medicalised. We must end all FGM.”
Hibo Wardere
Author and FGM Survivor

“It has been recognized that stopping the medicalization of FGM is an essential component of the holistic, human-rights-based approach towards the elimination of the practice: when communities see that health-care providers have taken a stand in favour of the abandonment of the procedure and have refrained from performing it, this will foster local debate & questioning of the practice.”

World Health Organisation (2016)

FGM

END IT. DON'T MEDICALISE IT

UNDERSTANDING MEDICALISATION

Providing access to medical equipment or training

Healthcare providers performing FGM on girls or women

Girls or women having FGM performed in a healthcare facility

Replacing severe forms of FGM with more symbolic types of cutting

Transporting girls to health facilities overseas

Procedures to re-establish FGM after women have given birth (known as reinfibulation)

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TO READ THE FULL REPORT ON THE MEDICALISATION OF FGM VISIT WWW.28TOOMANY.ORG

The International Community and NGOs...

- ✓ **Promote clear statements against all forms of FGM and a zero-tolerance approach to medicalisation of the practice.**
- ✓ **Develop programmes to tackle FGM that take into account local issues, including addressing the medicalisation of FGM, where this is occurring.**
- ✓ **Include Health Care Professionals in the development and implementation of programmes.**
- ✓ **Ensure health education on the harm of FGM is within the wider context of FGM as a human-rights issue and a form of gender discrimination.**
- ✓ **Call upon governments to strengthen their legal protection, reporting and punitive mechanisms to enable effective prosecution of all those including Health Care Providers who perform, facilitate or permit any form of FGM at home or abroad.**

Local Community Organisations...

- ✓ **Assist communities, including immigrant and diaspora, with education on FGM including medicalisation**
- ✓ **Disseminate information about the illegality of the practice as well as the health risks associated with medicalised FGM.**
- ✓ **Highlight the practice not only as a health issue, but as a human-rights violation that disempowers women.**