

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)

[www.28toomany.org](http://www.28toomany.org) | [info@28toomany.org](mailto:info@28toomany.org)

TO READ THE FULL REPORT ON THE MEDICALISATION OF FGM VISIT [WWW.28TOOMANY.ORG](http://WWW.28TOOMANY.ORG)



## **Government, Policy Makers and Professional Medical Organisations...**

- ✓ **Condemn all forms of medicalised FGM at local, national and international level.**
- ✓ **Involve professional organisations and bodies in advising medical personnel against carrying out FGM and in holding Health Care Providers accountable for unethical practice regarding all forms of FGM, including the reinfibulation of women who have previously had FGM, after they give birth.**
- ✓ **Provide medical staff with relevant training to help them understand the practice and the motivations behind it, so that they can offer appropriate counselling and assistance and advocate against FGM.**
- ✓ **Provide specific guidelines for Health Care Providers on procedures for suturing wounds resulting from emergency reversals during labour.**
- ✓ **Support Health Care Providers in learning about the clinical management of FGM survivors and recognising when girls and women are at risk of FGM.**
- ✓ **Ensure that medical staff, social workers, school nurses and other relevant actors are trained in relation to the laws applicable to FGM and about cultural sensitivity, as well as preventing, detecting and reporting FGM.**
- ✓ **Provide greater supervision over hospitals in affected areas to deter medical staff from performing the procedure.**
- ✓ **Enhance punitive law and its enforcement for those who perform FGM, including medical professionals.**
- ✓ **Draft and implement clear legislation that distinguishes between FGM and cosmetic vaginal surgery.**

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