

September 21, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20002

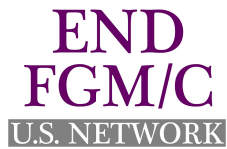
Re: Letter requesting H.R. 6100 - STOP FGM Act of 2020 be urgently brought to a vote

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Feinstein,

The U.S. End FGM/C Network would like to take this opportunity to express our strong support for H.R. 6100 - STOP FGM Act of 2020 that amends 18 U.S. Code § 116 to clarify the criminalization of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). This robust bill properly defines FGM/C, which is extremely important in protecting all girls from this harm, addresses who is accountable under the law, and ensures that federal agencies measure FGM/C, and report on their activities to implement the law. We were thrilled when the House of Representatives unanimously passed this bill this afternoon. Girls have been living without federal protection from FGM/C in the United States since April 2019 and the Department of Justice has already expressed their support for H.R. 6100. The current pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement have shined an even brighter light on the discrimination facing women and girls, especially those of color.

As leads of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, we ask you to urgently review this bill and refer it out of Committee so it can be brought to the floor for a vote.

The U.S. End FGM/C Network is a collaborative group of FGM/C survivors, 72 civil society organizations, foundations, activists, policy makers, researchers, healthcare providers, and others committed to promoting the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting in the U.S. and around the world (Enclosure). There are no health benefits to FGM/C. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, half a million women and girls living in the U.S. have been cut or are at risk of FGM/C. Federal U.S. policies recognize FGM/C as a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls; and it is urgent that federal law continues to criminalize the practice. We fully support the amendments in H.R. 6100 that ensure more robust protections for all girls against FGM/C. Currently, only 39 states have passed laws banning FGM/C, and federal protection is urgent. Furthermore, the STOP FGM Act will act as a prevention tool for families who want to end this practice, but remain afraid of social pressures to

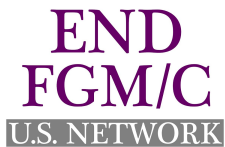


do so. Federal agency implementation of the bill will provide wide education on the harmfulness of FGM/C. The required reporting on FGM/C data in the U.S. also meets the requirement in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5.3, led by the U.S., that all countries report their FGM/C data. We respectfully urge you to take the necessary steps to help move it.

Please feel free to reach out to us at info@endfgmnetwork.org if you have any questions regarding the practice of FGM/C in the U.S., or visit our website at www.endfgmnetwork.org.

Sincerely,
The U.S. End FGM/C Network

Enclosure



Enclosure: U.S. End FGM/C Network Members

28 Too Many

African Communities Public Health Coalition

African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA)

African Family Health Organization

African Women's Health Center (AWHC), Brigham & Women's Hospital

Barbara Newman, MD, MPH

Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS)

Dalia Project

Days for Girls International

Donor Direct Action

Equality Now

FGM Taskforce of Greater Los Angeles / Servicing Wild Flowers International

Fight Slavery Now

Finally Girls Matter (U.S. Mali Charitable Association)

Forma

Global Woman P.E.A.C.E. Foundation

Globalizing Gender

Hope Beyond Foundation

Holman Prevention

Icahn School of Medicine Mount Sinai

Ifrah Foundation

Inter-African Commission on Harmful Practices, USA

International Center Research on Women (ICRW)

International Institute of Minnesota

International Institute of Tolerance

Kakenya Center for Excellence/Kakenya's Dream

Kathleen Krieger

Last Mile4D

Libertad Girl Foundation

Liberia Youth for Progressive Change

Maine Access Immigrant Network (MAIN)

Minnesota African Women Against Violence

Muslim American Leadership Alliance (MALA)

Muslims for Progressive Values

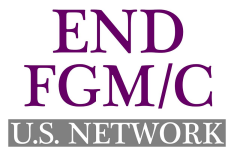
Nationalities Service Center, Philadelphia International Women's Project

Network of Youth Action

New York Coalition to End FGM

Nile Sisters Development Initiative

Orchid Project



Partnerships for Health
Pastoralist Child Foundation
Philadelphia International Women's Project
RAHMA
Refugee Women's Health Clinic, Maricopa Integrated Health System
Safe Hands for Girls
Sahiyo
Sanctuary for Families
SheFFA
Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center
StoryCenter
Tanzania Development Trust
The George Washington University, Department of Prevention and Community Health
The Girl Generation
The Grandmother Project
The Mount Sinai Human Rights Program
The Surgery Center for FGM
The Women's Bar Association
There is No Limit Foundation
Threads Weaving Dreams
Too Young to Wed
UnCUT Voices
U.S. Clinicians Network on FGM/C
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
UNICEF USA
Vital Voices
Wallace Global Fund
We Speak Out
We Were Cut for Men - A RAHMA Project
Women's Global Education Project
"Women's Holistic Health Initiative Harlem United/URAM, The Nest Community Health Center"
Yale Center for Asylum Medicine
Zero Abuse Project