

September 10, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Madam Speaker,

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. The Department of Justice has refused to enforce the existing law since April 2019, and girls are living without federal protection from FGM/C in the United States. 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 Speaker of the House, we ask you to urgently bring this bill 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. While we disagree with the findings in *United States v. Nagarwala*, that Congress did not have authority to pass the federal law criminalizing FGM/C, we support the amendments 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

cc:
The Honorable Jerry Nadler
The Honorable Jim Jordan



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

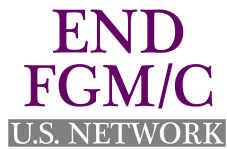
Network of Youth Action

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