



Press Release:

Bill Signed by President Trump to Criminalize Female Genital Mutilation in the United States

Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2021

New York, New York-

On Tuesday, January 5, 2021, the President signed into law, H.R. 6100, the “Strengthening the Opposition to Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2020” or the “[STOP FGM Act of 2020](#),” which increases criminal penalties for performing female genital mutilation on a minor and expands the scope of punishable offenses.

We, the members of the U.S. End FGM/C Network, celebrate this victory as a step closer to ending the harmful practice of FGM/C worldwide. The U.S. End FGM/C Network aims to eliminate FGM/C by connecting, supporting, elevating and advocating with diverse U.S. stakeholders engaged in prevention, education and care.

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) refers to cutting and other procedures that injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. According to the World Health Organization, FGM/C has no health benefits and can cause lifelong physical and psychological harm. Half a million women and girls living in the United States have been cut or are at risk of FGM/C. Federal U.S. policies recognize FGM as a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls.

In response to H.R. 6100’s passing, The U.S. End FGM/C Network’s National Director, Dr. Natoschia Scruggs, issued the following statement:

“This is a huge victory for all the organizations and individuals that worked tirelessly to ensure that we have a federal law to protect women and girls against a gross human rights violation. The Network is elated and looks forward to continuing to push for the passage of laws in all 50 U.S. states as well as the global abandonment of this human rights violation.”

The U.S. End FGM/C Network is a collaborative group of FGM/C survivors, civil-society organizations, foundations, activists, policy makers, researchers, healthcare providers, and others committed to promoting the abandonment of FGM/C in the U.S. and around the world.

The U.S. End FGM/C Network urges Americans and the global community to speak out to the highest levels of political power to take action to criminalize FGM/C, thereby ending FGM/C the world over.

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