

END FGM/C

U.S. NETWORK

2025

Legislative Report

A review of FGM/C Advocacy
in the United States and Beyond



Table of Contents

About The U.S. End FGM/C Network **2**

Foreword **3**

State Advocacy Overview & Updates **4-11**

Federal Advocacy Overview & Updates **12-13**

Global Advocacy Overview & Updates **13-15**

Afterword **16**

Support Our Work **17**

About The U.S. End FGM/C Network

The U.S. End FGM/C Network (“The Network”) is a collaborative group of survivors, civil society organizations, foundations, activists, policymakers, researchers, healthcare providers, and others committed to ending FGM/C in the United States and globally.

Our mission is to eliminate FGM/C by connecting, supporting, elevating, and advocating on behalf of and with diverse U.S. stakeholders engaged in prevention, education, and care.

For more information:

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About Our Policy & Advocacy

The U.S. End FGM/C Network is dedicated to advocating for comprehensive, holistic policies that prohibit FGM/C and support survivors at the state, national, and international levels. We prioritize the voices of survivors and impacted communities to ensure their needs and experiences are at the forefront of our efforts. Our focus includes advocating for, strengthening, and implementing legislation at the state levels, safeguarding the federal law against FGM/C, and calling for increased funding worldwide. We actively collaborate with survivors, policymakers, coalitions, government agencies, donors, and international organizations to work collectively toward ending FGM/C in the United States and across the globe.

Foreword

This report highlights our 2025 Policy Advocacy work, which was marked by both significant challenges and notable successes. Throughout the year, we built coalitions, hosted roundtables, engaged with legislators through calls and meetings, introduced and tracked legislation, mobilized our members, issued calls to action, and organized legislative briefings and advocacy events. We provided testimony at hearings, celebrated bills as they became law, presented at conferences, developed policy recommendations, and implemented community education and outreach programs. Additionally, we advocated for increased funding, issued public statements, created social media kits, phone scripts, and fact sheets, hosted webinars, published reports, and established new partnerships with LGBTQ+ organizations.

At the same time, we faced obstacles and disappointments. We struggled to receive callbacks from legislators, witnessed bills die in committee, and worked tirelessly to differentiate FGM/C from gender-affirming care while standing in solidarity with the Trans community. We also observed the FGM/C movement, already severely underfunded, losing further resources under the new administration, and watched as young girls around the world continue to die from preventable deaths.

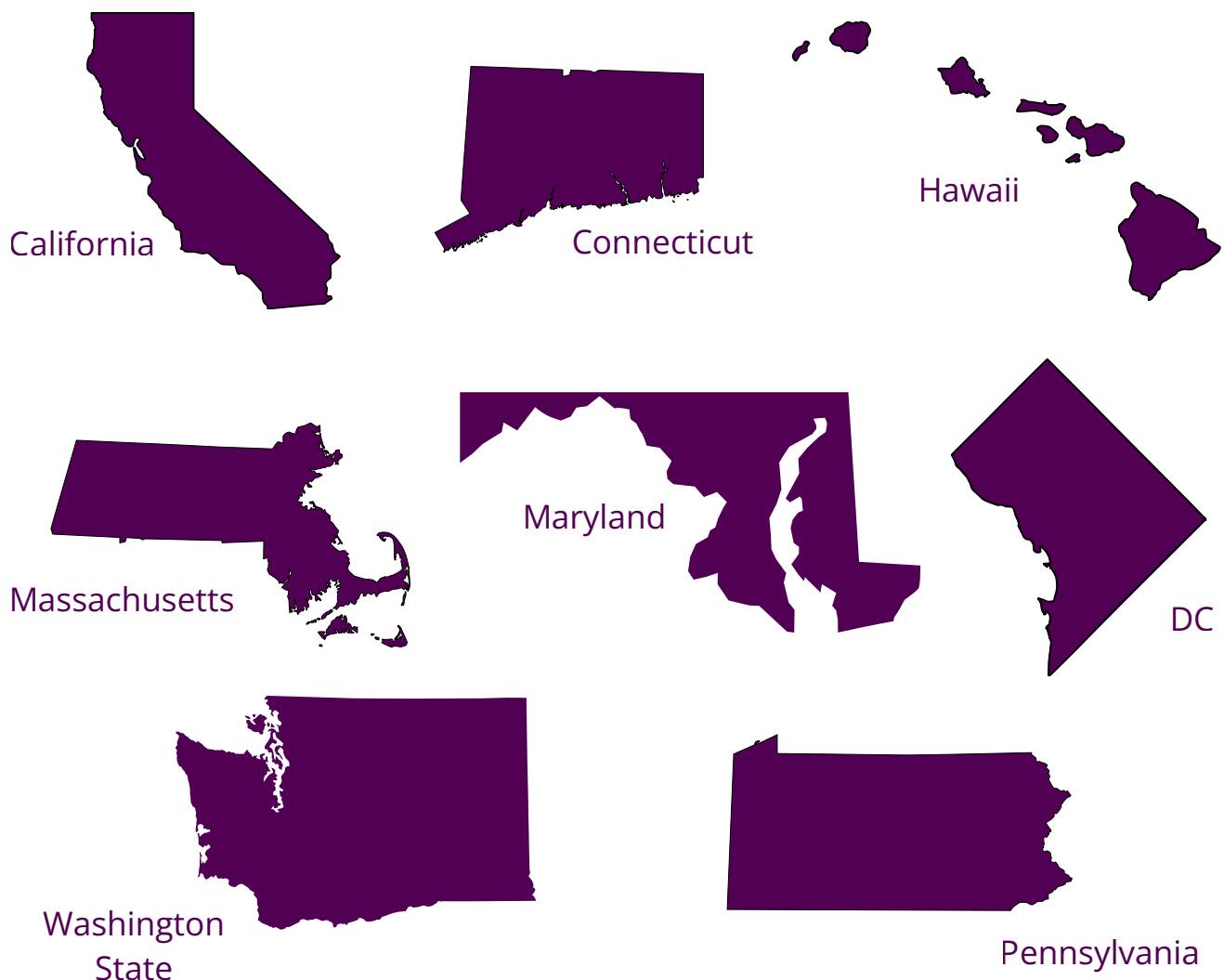
All the while, we are proud of what we accomplished alongside our partners in 2025! As we head into 2026, we look forward to another year of policy advocacy efforts aimed at ending FGM/C in the United States and across the globe. In 2026, we plan to show up with even more tenacity as we continue to support coalitions in California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, introduce legislation in Connecticut and Maryland, and implement anti-FGM/C laws in Washington D.C, and Washington state. At the federal level, we will continue to join forces with LGBTQ+ advocates to combat the harmful conflation of FGM/C with gender-affirming care. As for our global advocacy, we will be heading to CSW70 in New York in March and Women Deliver 2026 in Melbourne, Australia, in April to host events alongside our partners, bringing attention to FGM/C on the international stage.

Kaitlin Mitchell
Policy and Advocacy Coordinator

State Advocacy

In 2025, the Network was part of six state coalitions working to end FGM/C. State coalitions play a key role in pushing for policy changes, bringing together diverse groups such as community leaders and organizations to address the specific needs related to FGM/C. These partnerships amplify community voices, bridge gaps between communities and policymakers, and drive policies that reflect the diverse needs of those affected by FGM/C. The following activities were carried out in collaboration with those coalitions and partner organizations.

This year we worked in:



California



Virtual Roundtable

On June 27th, 2025, we co-hosted a Virtual Roundtable: Strengthening California's Response to FGM/C to convene advocates, community leaders, and policymakers in discussing gaps, challenges, and opportunities in California's FGM/C policy landscape.

As a direct outcome of that event, we co-founded the California Coalition to End FGM/C, a new statewide alliance dedicated to coordinating advocacy, engaging survivors, and advancing legislative reform.

The flyer features logos for Equality Now (A just world for women and girls), sahiyo (United Against Female Genital Cutting), and END FGM/C U.S. NETWORK. The title is "Virtual Roundtable: Strengthening California's Response to FGM/C". The text describes the impact of FGM/C and the need for updated legislation. It provides the date (Friday, June 27), time (11:00 AM PST), location (Virtual (Zoom)), and a registration link (https://bit.ly/45IXWe0). It concludes with a request to share the event.

Equality Now
A just world for women and girls

sahiyo
United Against Female Genital Cutting

END FGM/C
U.S. NETWORK

Virtual Roundtable: Strengthening California's Response to FGM/C

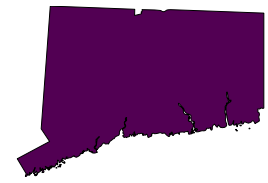
Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) continues to impact women and girls across California. While legislation passed in 1996 made FGM/C a felony, evolving community needs and survivor experiences demand a stronger, more inclusive, and updated approach.

Join us for a virtual roundtable discussion bringing together advocates, professionals, and community leaders to explore how California can modernize its FGM/C legislation!

Date: Friday, June 27
 Time: 11:00 AM PST
 Location: Virtual (Zoom)
 Register: <https://bit.ly/45IXWe0>

Please share this event with other individuals or organizations who you think would be interested!

Connecticut



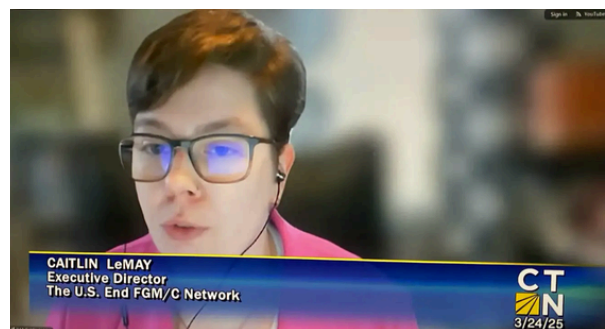
In 2025, as a member of the Connecticut Coalition to End FGM/C, we remained dedicated to advocating for comprehensive legislation to end female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) in Connecticut.

Senate Bill 1438

On January 24th, 2025, the Network celebrated alongside the Connecticut Coalition to End FGM/C as **SB 1438** was filed by bill sponsor Representative Jillian Gilchrest. Senate Bill 1438, “An Act Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation,” marked the first time in five years of advocacy that anti-FGM/C legislation was introduced in Connecticut. The state further demonstrated awareness by issuing a **proclamation** on February 4th ahead of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM/C. On March 24th, Caitlin LeMay, the Executive Director at the Network, delivered oral testimony in favor of the bill during the Judiciary hearing. While the bill passed the Judiciary Committee with a unanimous 41-0 vote, it was ultimately **not called for a full Senate vote** before the legislative session ended on June 4th.

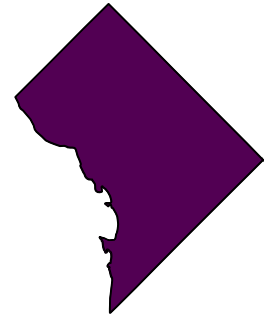
Call to Action

The Network mobilized community members through a **call to action** that sought to raise awareness about FGM/C in Connecticut and encouraged constituents to participate in the legislative process by contacting their elected officials and advocating for legislation that prohibits FGM/C in the state. Overall, the call to action sent 342 messages to Connecticut legislators from 173 constituents. On January 13th, alongside the coalition, we co-hosted a **legislative briefing** to educate lawmakers about the urgent need for legal reform to protect girls at risk and support survivors of FGM/C.



We remain committed to renewing advocacy efforts and ensuring that comprehensive legal protections are enacted to safeguard women and girls across the state.

District of Columbia



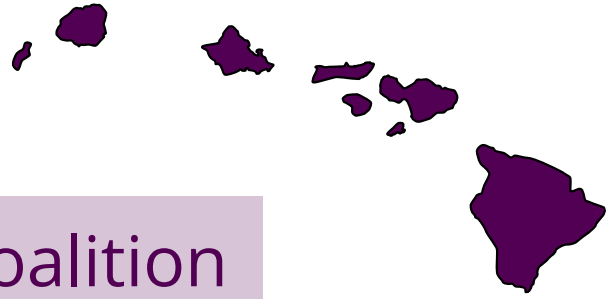
DC Law 25-322

In 2025, our long-term advocacy efforts in the District of Columbia achieved a major milestone with the enactment of **D.C. Law 25-322**: Female Genital Mutilation Prohibition Act of 2024, on April 18, 2025. This success follows years of coalition-building, awareness campaigns, and public testimony supporting the legislation.

To mark this achievement and discuss its implementation, the Network, as part of the DMV Coalition to End FGM/C, co-hosted a webinar on July 1, 2025, highlighting the law's significance, enforcement strategies, and next steps for community education, including engaging DC Health, and survivor support across the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia region.



Hawaii



Hawaii Coalition

In Hawaii, we co-founded the Hawaii Coalition to End Harmful Practices, alongside Sahiyo, Equality Now, and Unchained At Last. As part of the coalition, the Network met with numerous state legislators to provide education about FGM/C, share information about the Hawaii Coalition to End Harmful Practices, and discuss the importance of comprehensive, holistic legislation to address harmful practices in Hawaii.



Maryland

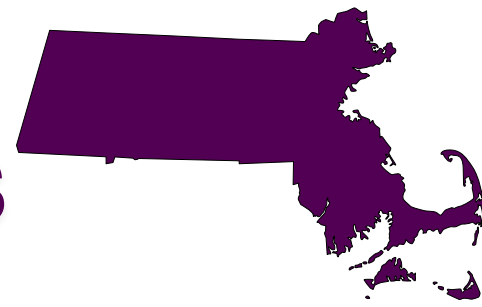


Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women

On November 1, 2025, members of the DMV Coalition to End FGM/C presented at the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women's (MLAW) 2025 Fall Agenda Conference on amending Maryland's 1998 anti-FGM/C law. The DMV Coalition's presentation included proposals to strengthen the law by adding protections for women and girls through expanding the definition of FGM/C to align with that of the WHO, prohibiting the transport of girls out of the state for FGM/C, requiring mandated reporting, and providing community education and outreach through the Maryland Department of Health.

The U.S. End FGM/C Network and the DMV Coalition to End FGM/C are committed to continuing to advocate for these improvements to Maryland's anti-FGM/C in 2026 and beyond.

Massachusetts

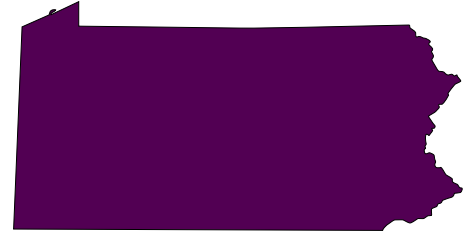


HOPE MA Project

This year we entered the second year of the Holistic Organized Partnerships to End FGM/C in Massachusetts (HOPE MA) Project, a partnership among Sahiyo U.S., The U.S. End FGM/C Network, and UMass Chan Collaborative in Health Equity. The project aims to reduce health inequities for survivors of FGM/C in the Commonwealth through ensuring increased access to culturally responsive mental and physical healthcare services, all while addressing systemic barriers and racial inequities through policy advocacy and community engagement.



Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania Coalition

In the state of Pennsylvania, we co-founded the Pennsylvania Coalition to End FGM/C alongside four member organizations: African Family Health Organizations (AFAHO), African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA), Last Mile4D, and Sahiyo. We look forward to working alongside our partners to build out this Coalition further and work towards systemic change in Pennsylvania to strengthen the state law, advocate for effective implementation, and promote policy change within various systems across the state.



Washington State



Prevention & Response Project

In 2025, the Network continued to actively engage in the **Washington State Coalition to End FGM/C**. Additionally, as part of the project team, alongside Sahiyo and Mother Africa, the Network entered the second year of implementation for the Washington State Department of Public Health's FGM/C **Prevention and Response Project**, following the passage of the **2023 state law** that allocated dedicated funding for education, outreach, and prevention efforts.

In June 2025, at the close of Year 2, the project team submitted a set of policy and implementation recommendations to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), including:

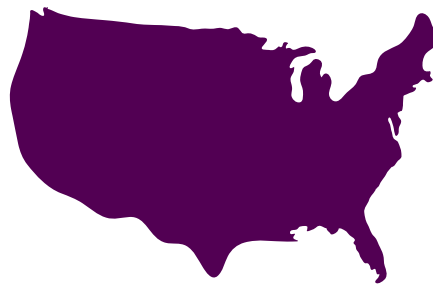
- Community Education and Awareness Strategies to expand outreach and engagement.
- Training Strategies for Healthcare and Service Providers to improve survivor-centered care and prevention.
- Interagency Coordination Mechanisms to Enhance Statewide Collaboration on FGM/C Response.
- FGM/C State Law Implementation Report and Recommendations

Throughout the year, the project team advocated for continued funding beyond the initial two-year allocation to ensure the sustainability of statewide education and prevention initiatives. In June 2025, following the completion of Year 2, the project team and the coalition were informed that the Washington State Department of Health would continue funding the project for two additional years.

Department of Health Partnership

In addition, we have worked with alongside the Washington Coalition to End FGM/C to continue advocacy efforts within the state. These advocacy needs include continued funding for the implementation of the state's prevention and response requirements through the Washington State Department of Health and increasing access to services for FGM/C survivors in the state. As a result of this advocacy, the Washington State Department of Health has committed to continued funding for the FGM/C Prevention and Response Project, and Senator Tina Orwall, in partnership with the Washington Coalition to End FGM/C, is committed to integrating FGM/C in the state's Survivor Bill of Rights, ensuring FGM/C survivors can have equal access to state services and resources that are available to survivors of sexual assault.

Federal Advocacy



Federally, our 2025 policy efforts focused on H.R. 3492, a bill introduced by Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene on May 19, 2025, that aimed to amend 18 U.S.C. § 116 Female Genital Mutilation to criminalize gender-affirming care for minors.

Our network coordinated a collaborative response that issued 3 public statements, educated nearly 50 Congress members personally via phone or one-on-one meeting about FGM/C and how gender-affirming care is not the same, and facilitated a Call to Action that sent over 809 letters to members of Congress by 284 advocates. We also developed and shared a social media kit, a phone script for calling legislators, a fact sheet with information differentiating FGM/C from gender-affirming care, and hosted a members-only webinar on how to identify your elected official and strategies for how to talk to elected officials about FGM/C as a way to equip our members with the skills needed for policy advocacy. Lastly, we have built partnerships with multiple LGBTQ+ organizations to build bridges between our movements and partnered with the Global Platform for Action to End FGM/C and the Americas Alliance to End FGM/C to produce an international sign-on letter signed by 92 civil society organizations from the U.S. and around the world.



Global Advocacy

In 2025, we continued to collaborate with our global partners to end FGM/C worldwide. Through joint reports, events, and consortiums, we remained steadfast in framing FGM/C as an urgent, global public health crisis that required comprehensive policies, enforcement of laws and accountability, dedicated funding, in-depth data collection, and survivor-centered care.

Urgent Need for a Global Response

In March 2025, we co-launched **The Time Is Now: End FGM/C - An Urgent Need for a Global Response** alongside Equality Now and the End FGM European Network. This report, an update from a previous report published in 2020, revealed that FGM/C has been documented in at least 94 countries around the world, including new findings from Azerbaijan, Vietnam, and Cambodia. It highlights the urgency of eradicating FGM/C by 2030 and offers actionable recommendations for governments, donors, and international stakeholders including the need to address FGM/C as a global issue, in all countries where it occurs. It also highlights the need for improved data collection, survivor support, and the effective enforcement of anti-FGM/C laws to drive meaningful change.

On March 19th, we joined our partners Equality Now and End FGM European Network to officially launch our new joint report during the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) in New York City.

On February 6, 2025, International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM/C, our organization joined the launch of the America's Alliance to End FGM/C, which is the introduction of a new regional alliance dedicated to addressing FGM/C across the Americas. Aiming to strengthen collaboration among governments, scholars, and survivors across the Western Hemisphere, we are focusing on 4 objectives:

- 1) Improve data collection and research
- 2) Adopt culturally sensitive care for survivors
- 3) Improve and develop new prevention policies
- 4) Ensure consistent, survivor-centered communications worldwide.



Global Platform for Action

The U.S. End FGM/C Network is a core member of The Global Platform for Action to End FGM/C, a consortium of civil society organizations, champions, survivors, and grassroots representatives united in a singular mission: to support the abandonment and prevention of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). As a member of the Global Platform, we have continued to advocate for new and increased funding for FGM/C programming, particularly for frontline activists in areas most impacted and who are underrepresented. This has included regular advocacy and communication with the FGM/C Donor Working Group (DWG) to follow up on recommendations proposed during the 2024 DWG meeting and assess changes in the global funding landscape since.



The Americas Alliance to End FGM/C



On November 17, 2025, the Network, in collaboration with the Americas Alliance, successfully advocated for and subsequently testified at a thematic hearing on FGM/C in the Americas before the **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)**, the Organization of American States' principle regional body for human rights protection. The IACHR's guidelines and recommendations inform government action and shape legal standards for 35 countries across the region. This dedicated thematic hearing marked the first time any international human rights mechanism has ever held a thematic hearing focused on **FGM/C in the Americas**. The Network provided oral testimony at the **in-person thematic hearing** in Miami, FL to raise awareness about FGM/C in the U.S., alongside our partners who discussed FGM/C in other regions of the Americas, including Canada and Colombia.



Afterword

As we move forward into 2026 and beyond, our commitment to ending FGM/C remains steadfast. We plan to enhance our collaborations both domestically and globally, ensuring that FGM/C is recognized as an urgent public health crisis requiring immediate action. Reflecting on our 2025 advocacy efforts, we recognize the challenges and achievements that have shaped our work, from coalition-building and legislative engagement to community outreach. While we faced challenges and setbacks, our accomplishments alongside our partners fueled our determination to advocate for policy changes including strengthened laws, improved services for survivors, and increased funding for the anti-FGM/C movement. Moving forward, we are excited about upcoming initiatives and events that will amplify our mission to end FGM/C and increase support for survivors and impacted communities.

We invite you to explore our newly launched [strategic plan](#) for more insights into our future advocacy plans, and contact us to get involved.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive for a world free from FGM/C.

Support Our Advocacy

The progress documented in this report must be sustained and accelerated. By donating today, you will be directly supporting our advocacy to ensure that holistic, comprehensive, and survivor-centered policies are passed, strengthened, and implemented at every level.

We cannot do this work alone. Donate today to support our essential policy advocacy services to protect women and girls in the U.S. and globally against FGM/C.



<https://endfgmnetwork.org/donation>



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