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**ENDFGM EUROPEAN NETWORK MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

## The End FGM European Network is a European umbrella organisation set up by 11 national NGOs from across Europe.

END FGM advocates for a holistic approach to ending FGM and other forms of violence against women and girls at European level. It aims to create an enabling environment for coordinated and comprehensive action by European decision-makers. It facilitates the synergy of diverse organisations and the active participation of rights holders. It also provides space where its member organisations can share their experience and diverse skills.

END FGM works with the following principles:

·         Respect and promotion of human rights and gender equality

·         Active participation of rights holders in decision-making and activities

·         Use and promotion of empowering language framed in human rights terminology

·         Ownership by member organisations

·         Accountability, integrity, transparency and professionalism in all its work

·         Solidarity between organisations and respect for staff, members, individuals and allies

END FGM works towards the following objectives:

1. Increase prevention and empowerment of women, girls and FGM affected communities
2. Stronger protection mechanism and better provision of comprehensive services
3. Better protection for asylum seekers affected by FGM
4. Reflect on the best interest of the child in prosecution
5. Better coordination of actions between Europe and countries of origin

END FGM is keen on welcoming new members who would support its vision and mission and who work on ending FGM and/or with affected communities in Europe and in other continents where FGM is prevalent.

1. **WHAT END FGM HAS TO OFFER TO ITS MEMBERS**

**Access to Knowledge and expertise**

Members have access to intelligence on the issue of FGM and other harmful practices, violence against women and girls (VAWG), women’s rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and migrant rights with a gender and human rights –based approach. As member, you will have the opportunity to attend at least one GA per year, conferences, workshops and training sessions to help your capacity building as an END FGM member. The members of the Network will also have access to newsletters and receive updated information on the latest reports in the field.

**Communication and advocacy**

Access to a very diverse pool of expertise and international platforms through the Network’s involvement in global Networks enabling the development of common transnational projects. The END FGM Members are offered many opportunities to exchange ideas, experiences, learning and good practices in the field of FGM. You will be invited to participate in our bi-annual General Assembly which provides space for networking and exchanging views. The members of the Network will be invited to regularly organized meetings on our priorities, to share information, discuss policy developments and develop policy positions and strategies. Thanks to our collaboration with other NGOs you will also have the opportunity to liaise with other stakeholders. The network facilitates access to EU policy and decision-makers, offering the opportunity to contribute to policy development processes at European level.

**Visibility**

Due to our unique relationship with European decision makers, EU and non-EU institutions, the END FGM European Network ensures the voice and concerns of its members are heard in Europe and beyond.

1. **WHO CAN BE A MEMBER?**
* CSOs working in areas related on FGM in Europe
* CSOs, whose bodies are legally constituted and working in accordance with the laws in force within their country of origin and within the EU (Full Membership).
* European and International formal and informal CSOs/ Networks/ bodies as well as formal national bodies outside the EU (Associate Membership)
1. **CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**All members must:**

* Have strong motivation, interest and experience in working on the issue of FGM and other harmful practices, violence against women and girls (VAWG), women’s rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and migrant rights with a gender and human rights–based approach
* Be interested in engaging in transnational work, advocacy and campaigning based on influencing European developments
* Have interest and/or experience that directly or indirectly impacts on affected communities.

*Please see Annex I on General Criteria for the Selection of Candidates for Membership to END FGM Network.*

**Full Membership**

* Subscribe to the mission statement of the Network;
* sign and respect the principles spell out in the Charter of the Network;
* be based in the European Union;
* be registered as a charity under national law;
* Interested in and committed to investing time and actively engaging in the network and its working groups
* have paid its yearly fees;
* focus on key areas determined by the End FGM network (the principles and objectives followed by the Network);
* Interested in engaging in transnational work, advocacy and campaigning based on or influencing European developments.

**Full Members have voting rights (one vote per organization) and the right to stand for election (one representative per organization) to the Network’s bodies.**

**Associate membership**

* Subscribe to the mission statement of the Network;
* Sign and respect the principles spelled out in the Charter of the Network;
* Be either a Europe wide or international formal or informal network or a legal body in countries which are not members of the EU;
* Contribute to the work of the Network and its working groups;
* Have paid its yearly fees;
* Facilitate the flow of information, lesson learnt and best practices between the network and the non-MS to whom the organization belong;
* Facilitate the networking with non-EU national or regional organization, movements, coalitions, engaged in the elimination of VAWG and harmful traditional practice including FGM.

**Associate members have no voting rights and no right to stand for election for the Network’s organizational structures. Associate members shall have the right to attend meetings of the General Assembly as observers.**

1. **HOW TO APPLY (Process for becoming a member)**

**Full Membership**

* By written application to the Board and by decision of the General Assembly (absolute majority).(50+1)
* Provide a copy of organization’s Statutes
* Adhere to the mission, values and principles of network by signing the Charter
* Provide Material related to the activities of the organization including the latest annual report
* Pay its yearly fees of €200

**Associate Membership**

* By written application to the Board and by decision of the General Assembly.(by simple majority)
* Subscribe to the mission statement of the Network;
* Adhere to the mission, values and principles of network by signing the Charter
* Provide a copy of organization’s Statutes (where applicable)
* Provide Material related to the activities of the organization including the latest annual report
* Pay its yearly fees of €100

Interested organisations are kindly requested to address their membership application including the above documentation to the president of the Board and sent it to the Secretariat of the Network. Membership requests will then be taken to the Board of the network.

For any question or further clarification please contact us at info@endfgm.eu

Application submissions: info@endfgm.eu

1. **WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM THE MEMBERS?**

The members are obliged to:

* Advance the interests of the Network and avoid any action which might discredit or damage the Network or interfere with the achievement of its aims.
* Be active in at least one of the field of principles/objectives/activities defined by the statutes and/or the membership policy of the END FGM.

In order for the Network to be a regional forum of exchange of information and joint work, it is important that the members as well as the organizations they represent are formally committed to allocating time and human resources to the work of the Network. **Examples of the type of support that organisations could provide:**

* Participate in common European advocacy and communication actions; provide access to national decision-makers and intelligence on national developments;
* Share and upload tools and resources – guidance notes, existing guides, tool kits, training materials, advocacy materials;
* Provide access to and/or support attendance of network members’ representatives to training opportunities;
* Organize / contribute expertise during workshops, conferences, seminars, webinars and other activities initiated by the Network;
* Support with the realization of common actions in the local context (including translation of joint documents, and key materials, capacity building strategy dimensions);
* Facilitate documentation of country experiences.
1. **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

The following annual membership fees have been decided upon by the General Assembly:

1. Regular members     200 EURO
2. Associate members  100 EURO

Payment of the fee is a confirmation of the membership to the END FGM European Network as well as support for the Network and its activities. It furthermore gives to the members the opportunity to participate in the [General Assembly](http://www.euromedrights.org/eng/?page_id=19234) meetings and receive invitations for activities organised by the Network.

Membership fees can be paid to the bank account of the END FGM European Network, by bank transfer or by an international check.

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| **BANK INFORMATION** |
|   Accountholder: END FGM European Network |  |
|   Bank: BNP Paribas Fortis |  |
|   Address: Rue de l'Hôtel des Monnaies 89 1060 Saint Gilles Belgium |  |
|   IBAN : BE67 0017 3273 9187 |  |
|    |  |
|   Swift / BIC: GEBA BE BB |  |

**ANNEX I**

**GENERAL CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES**

**FOR MEMBERSHIP TO END FGM NETWORK**

**1. Diversity**

In order for END FGM Network to truly reflect its membership and to secure diversity, priorities will be given to following criteria:

**1.a Gender**

The selection of members will aim at securing a gender balance.

**END FGM is committed to work towards increased involvement of men in its membership / representation**

**1.b Geography**

Aim at securing a geographical balance according to the priorities identified in the END FGM Network’s latest strategic plan. Applicants may fulfil at least one of the following criteria: countries which display good practices, high level of migration, funding opportunity within government or private foundations, organisations that want to improve the practices of their countries. The END FGM Network will give priority to applicants from countries not already represented in the Network.

**1.c Age**

In order to bring more young people into the END FGM European Network, we will seek a balance of participants younger than 30, between 30-50 and above 50.

**2. Experience**

In order for END FGM Network to serve as a pool of expertise on FGM, it is essential that member organisations and their representatives bring relevant proven experience into the membership.

**2.a Experience of the organisation in relation to FGM**

Proven experience of working on FGM within the last three years will be given priority. However, space will be given to organisations which convincingly argue for the wish and need for capacity building in relation to starting work on FGM.

**2.b Experience of the organisation in relation to work in the geographical region**

Experience from regional or national work in relation to Europe and regions where women and girls are affected by FGM.

**2.c Experience of the representative in relation to FGM**

Proven knowledge, be it theoretical or practical, of the topic of FGM will be prioritised. If the representative does not have such FGM specific knowledge, the representative will need to demonstrate proven expertise in the field of violence against women and girls, gender discrimination and asylum, health, law (international law, criminal law, civil law, child protection), data collection or any other relevant fields which will advance END FGM’s vision and mission.

1. **2.d Experience of the representative with work in the geographical region**

The representative’s experience from regional or national work in relation to Europe will be taken into consideration.

**3. Expected contribution from the member organisation**

**3.1 Expected contribution of the organisation’s representative**

The expected contribution of the organisation’s representative will be evaluated according to the following three aspects:

* ability to attend all the meetings (an average of 2 per year)
* capacity to share information to and from the Network – also in between meetings
* ability to actively participate in the Network’s activities (such as advocacy missions, commenting on reports, providing input to reports etc)

**3.2 Expected contribution of the organisation**

The expected contribution of the organisation will be evaluated according to the following four aspects:

* willingness to give priority to representative’s participation in all meetings
* willingness to provide support to representative’s participation in the Network’s activities and to reporting back to the organisation
* willingness to provide support to the Network’s activities (such as the organisation of national meetings, share information about the Network nationally )
* willingness to share information

3.3 Expected contribution from affiliated member

3.4 Expected contribution from the individual member (expert/strong voice/volunteer)

**4. Networking**

In order for the END FGM Network to function as a networking tool, it is important that the networking capabilities of both the representative and the organisation he/she represents are highlighted. However, space will also be given to organisations which convincingly argue for the wish and need for increasing their networking capacity in relation to the field of work of the Network.

**4.1 Networking capability of the representative**

The networking capability of the representative will be evaluated according to the following two aspects:

* membership of other relevant networks
* ability to provide links to activities dealing with the same thematics according to the strategic plan of the Network

**4.2 Networking capability of the organisation**

The networking capability of the organisation will be evaluated according to the following two aspects:

* membership of other relevant networks
* ability to provide links to activities dealing with the same thematic as the WG

**5. Knowledge of the END FGM Network language** As communication between members is the basic criteria for developing the work of the Network, the representative’s ability to work efficiently in English is important and will be weighted accordingly.

**6. Application submission**

Submission of a full and timely application, which will allow for a thorough selection process according to the criteria, will be weighted.