

Work towards EU gender equality goals, including ending gender-based violence and FGM.

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Promote an intersectional and feminist approach to eliminate gender-based violence in EU policies.

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Prioritize training for professionals in relevant policies and EU-funded programs.

5



2024



**End FGM**  
EUROPEAN NETWORK

MANIFESTO

FOR THE

EUROPEAN

ELECTIONS



2

Ensure FGM-affected community voices shape policies that concern them.



3

Promote accurate narratives about FGM to counter stigmatization.



4

Advocate for additional funding to civil society, prioritizing grassroots efforts.

# 2024 END FGM EU MANIFESTO FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a harmful practice affecting over 200 million women worldwide. This practice, devoid of medical benefits, leads to severe health consequences. FGM is a form of gender-based violence deeply ingrained in harmful norms that control and restrict women's freedom. This denial of full human rights, including bodily integrity, freedom from torture, mental health, sexual health, and reproductive rights, affects over 600,000 women in Europe already, with 180,000 more at immediate risk. These alarming numbers are set to escalate due to shifting demographics.

FGM elimination is a critical objective under the Gender Equality Goal of the Sustainable Development Agenda (SDG 5.3). Despite some progress, the current pace suggests we are centuries away from achieving this global objective.

In its decade of existence, the End FGM European Network has proudly prioritized FGM elimination within the EU and in development. Yet, the urgency of current realities demands immediate and intensified efforts to create a world free from the FGM and Gender Based Violence for all.

If the urgency of eliminating this harmful practice resonates with you, as a candidate for the 2024 European Elections, join us in making these goals a reality!

## 1) Work towards EU gender equality goals, including ending gender-based violence and FGM.

- Build a strong European framework that sets high minimum standards to prevent and combat the elimination of all forms of violence based on gender and discrimination, adopting a comprehensive Directive to combat violence against women and domestic violence.
- Ensure full implementation of the Istanbul Convention at both EU and Member State levels.

## 2) Ensure FGM-affected communities' voices shape policies that concern them.

- Address the lack of community-engagement strategies and mechanisms across EU countries.
- Ensure all anti-FGM measures are co-designed with affected communities and based on their needs. FGM is a deeply rooted form of violence that cannot be sustainably eliminated if not in full cooperation with the affected communities.

## 3) Promote accurate narratives about FGM to counter stigmatization.

- Actively work to destigmatize narratives around FGM and FGM affected communities and support the visibility of community-led anti-FGM activism.
- Counter instrumentalization of FGM as a tool to subtly or overtly promote anti-rights agendas, in breach of EU values and human rights guarantees.

## 4) Advocate for additional funding to civil society, prioritizing grassroots efforts.

- Enhance sector resources with accessible, flexible funding, including transcontinental initiatives for global FGM eradication.

## 5) Prioritize training for professionals in relevant policies and EU-funded programs.

- Make FGM training mandatory for all relevant professionals likely to encounter an FGM-affected individual (from healthcare to education to asylum officers) to ensure that they are equipped to recognise and respond to FGM-related issues.

## 6) Promote an intersectional and feminist approach to eliminate gender-based violence in EU policies.

- Ensure an intersectional, feminist approach in EU policy-making for all FGM-related initiatives. This means recognising the links between FGM, gender inequalities, gender-based discrimination and other factors.
- Uphold feminist values as guiding principles, ensuring coherence in EU efforts in advancing human rights and gender equality in its internal and external action.

