



END FGM EU Youth Programme

Concept note

Our commitments to end female genital mutilation in Europe and beyond will be incomplete and unsustainable without mobilising and preparing the next generation of activists for the tasks ahead. FGM is a global concern affecting more than 200 million girls and women in 30 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and girls below 14 represent 44 million¹ of those who have been cut. An estimated 500,000 women and girls are living with the effects in European Union. It is evident that FGM is a deep rooted socio-cultural problem that requires coordinated and comprehensive actions for social change to make it an issue of the past. We believe that children and young people have a unique perspective and potential to drive this change if they are educated and empowered to play their future parent role promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls.

With this in mind, the End FGM EU network is this year, 2017, launching activities in direct contact with children and young people with the long-term perspective of establishing an End FGM Youth Group actively involved with the Network's work to end FGM in Europe and beyond. This group of young people will be strategic in influencing our work on advocacy and awareness raising, by taking the lead and or cooperating with older generations of activists to plan and implement activities that promote children's right and protection from FGM. Recognising the vulnerability of young persons, however, the End FGM EU network and its member organisations are committed to also ensure the wellbeing of children participating in the project and activities of this programme

¹ UNICEF, 2016: Press Release https://www.unicef.org/media/media_90033.html

Objectives of the youth program

- Mobilise and engage the unique perspectives and potential of children as actors of social change to end female genital mutilation in Europe and beyond;
- Create awareness and build capacity of the next generation of young activists;
- Build a network of young people actively involve and influencing End FGM's work in protecting and promoting women and girl's rights

How the program will be implemented?

End FGM EU is hosting a two-day participatory workshop session as a pilot activity to engage youth in:

- Brainstorming meeting on how the Youth Group should get started. The seminar will engage 10 young people to identify their concerns and propose strategies for protecting young people at risk. At the end of this session we aim to develop a Youth Plan of Action for 2018 that is representative of youth's voices.

Who can participate?

This program is open to 10 young people between 16 – 20 years of age, living and/or from affected communities, interested in the FGM issues and willing to actively commit to the program on a long-term. These youths will be mobilised from member's network and organisations through an application form. First-hand experience on FGM issues and knowledge of English language are desirable.

When

The program will be launched on 14th and 15th October 2017

Where: in Brussels, Belgium

Ensuring youth's safe participation

Considering the vulnerability of children/young people, the END FGM and member organisations are committed to ensure that necessary safety measures are put in place during this seminar. Our Child Protection policy safeguards ensures that:

- A parent/legal guardian will accompany the child who is under-aged for travelling alone to long-distance intra-national or international destinations
- Travel and pick-ups will be arranged for children under-aged travelling to short-distance intra-national destinations
- Internal local transport (e.g. from activity venue to hotel) will be supervised by an End FGM representative
- Social activities outside the programme will be organised in group and supervised by an End FGM representative.
- External consultants such as Journalists, photographers/film crews will be fully briefed about child protection policy before they meet the children, or conduct any interviews.
- Inform consent must be sought from children/guardian before taking or using any photos or videos of children

The Child Protection policy guidelines also clearly spells out the code of conduct (obligations and boundaries) of the Network staff and members/ partners who will be directly involved with children to minimise the risks of harm to children during our activities. We ensure this, by signing a commitment to adhere to the Child Protection Policy principles and procedures.

We request the collaboration of all participants to respect the standards of this policy to safeguard the wellbeing, health and dignity of children participating to projects, activities and programs of the network.

Application deadline

Interested youths are invited to submit their interest form to the Programme assistant: programme.assistant@endfgm.eu before August 18th, 2017.



APPLICATION FORM

This application form is intended for young activists interested to be part of the END FGM Youth Program. This program is aimed at engaging the youths in the efforts to end FGM in Europe and affected countries/communities.

Please provide all necessary information requested below (*please be brief and concise*)

Name of applicant: _____

Date of Birth/Age: _____

Address/Location: _____

1. *Why do you want to participate in the program?*

2. *Have you any previous knowledge/experience in FGM activism?*

Selected participants will be expected to engage on a long-term basis.

3. *Are you committed to be a member of End FGM Youth Network, by actively participating in the initiation and realisation in future activities?*

4. *Have you any special needs to facilitate your active participation in the event?*
