



On February 6th, the World Says Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

One of our main goals at Jubilee Campaign is to highlight the testimonies of women and girls around the world who are subjected to bodily harm and sexual exploitation on account of their gender. From Africa, to Asia, and to the Middle East, we oppose physical and systematic violence against women and girls wherever it occurs, and in all of its forms. Today, we join the voices of thousands of other human rights organizations and activists around the world who say no more to female genital mutilation.

Liberia:

The [UN Women Global Database](#) reveals that approximately 44% of Liberian women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 years have been victims of female genital mutilation and/or cutting. Though this percentage has slowly but steadily decreased in recent years, it is still far too high. In January 2018, former President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf signed an executive order outlawing the inhumane practice; regrettably, however, this prohibition was only temporary and lasted just one year before expiring in January 2019.

Now, the advocacy towards ending FGM/C in Liberia is being spearheaded by individuals who oversaw the practice themselves and wanted to put an end to it, but did not see another option. This includes one [Ms. Yatta Fahnbulleh](#), who operated a bush school that for financial reasons performed FGM/C on its female students for years. Upon the introduction of the Alternative Economic Livelihood Program, which teaches new skills that will stimulate alternative sources of income to replace FGM/C, practitioners throughout Liberia, such as Ms. Fahnbulleh, will be able to cease the practice of FGM/C once and for all:

"Many people have asked me to leave bush business but my question has always been, 'What will I do next to help my family?' Now that you people have answered my question, I will join you to raise awareness of the vocational and heritage center...." - Ms. Yatta Fahnbulleh

We echo [Equality Now's](#) urgent calls on current Liberian President George Weah to enact a

permanent ban on female genital mutilation and cutting. We also welcome the dedicated efforts of individuals like Ms. Fahnbulleh in leading efforts in Liberia to eliminate FGM/C.

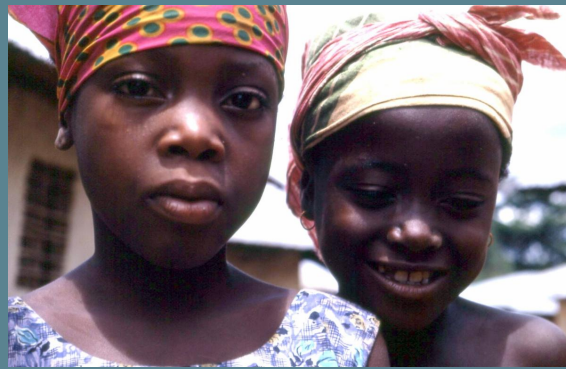


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Sudan:

In July 2020, Sudan's transitional government **ratified** the new Miscellaneous Amendments Act. In addition to making remarkable steps forward in safeguarding religious freedom and human rights, the act legally prohibited female genital mutilation. Though some Sudanese states had already implemented their own legislations outlawing the inhumane practice, the new act is the first step to outlawing FGM/C on a nationwide scale. As UN data reveals that Sudan is one of the nation's with the highest rate of FGM/C (87% of women and girls ages 15-49), we welcome the prohibition and call on Sudan to implement it to its fullest extent and to tackle the numerous obstacles to its complete implementation:

"...Any law is only as good as its enforcement, and this one faces challenges that include not only cultural resistance but also the effects of a pandemic that enable abuse to happen behind closed doors.... For Sudan's new law to be useful, it must be supported by robust educational and cultural reforms, experts say, a challenge made more difficult by the pandemic.... Raising awareness of FGM's lasting damage is particularly important for advocates who are trying to dispel myths about the practice. But with the news media now dominated by pandemic updates, it's hard to get mention of the new law." - Rhona Scullion, [PassBlue](#)



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Indonesia:

As is revealed by Preeti Jha for *The Diplomat*, there is both very little information and very little awareness about the prevalence of female genital mutilation in Southeast Asia. One country Indonesia, was the first Asian nation to be mentioned in the 2016 UNICEF report

The legal status of female genital mutilation in Indonesia has wavered; in 2006, it was banned by the Ministry of Health; by 2008, the Indonesia Ulema Council issued a *fatwa* (a ruling on Islamic law) recommending Muslim female infants and girls to undergo the procedure; in 2010 and then again in 2014, the Ministry of Health issued rules not prohibiting the procedure but explaining how it is to be carried out.

However, activism in support of outlawing the practice of FGM/C in Indonesia has remained persistent and is being led by organizations such as Orchid Project, Kaylanamitra, and the Indonesian Women's Coalition for Justice and Democracy.



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On the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, Jubilee Campaign supports all organizations, advocates, and activists who work around the world and domestically to end female genital mutilation and cutting, and we echo UN Women's assertion that "ending FGM is essential to give girls control over their own lives."

For more information on Jubilee Campaign's projects, funds, and initiatives, please visit our website by clicking the button below:

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