

2020 Commitment to ending FGM



In the past 4 years AkiDwA and members of the National Steering Committee on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) have been committed to ensuring prevention of FGM, more protection and access to culturally friendly services for survivors, prosecution for perpetrators and more integrated policies for effective coordination of efforts to end the practice of FGM and in the long run to foster gender equality. The past government has paid little attention to the issue of (FGM) in Ireland. We are calling for a comprehensive government led National Action Plan (NAP), implementing a comprehensive, allocating funding, supporting civil society working on the issue and calling for political commitment to end female genital mutilation and protect those at risk.

AkiDwA and members of the National Steering Committee (NSC) on FGM are calling on candidates of the February 2020 Elections to work to eliminate FGM in Ireland by committing to the following five points:

Intergovernmental Working Group on FGM

Establish an intergovernmental working group including the relevant government departments, civil society actors, frontline services and representatives from affected communities

National Action Plan on FGM

Develop a National Action Plan on FGM outlining and coordinating the response of government agencies, funding to support anti-FGM programmes and key targets and indicators to measure progress towards eradication.

Network of Community Health Ambassadors

Establish funding for a network of Community Health Ambassadors who would work with affected communities, including youth and religious groups and men, in order to change attitudes to FGM at a grassroots level.

Full implementation of Istanbul Convention

Implement fully Ireland's obligations under the Istanbul Convention, promoting a holistic and integrated approach in relation to violence against women and FGM.

Training for healthcare and frontline services

Support the training for all professionals and services providers working with FGM-affected communities, including, for example, healthcare professionals, social workers, Gardai and those working with asylum seekers.