



ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

on Beijing Platform
for Action implementation



End FGM
EUROPEAN NETWORK



▶ WHY ARE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION SO IMPORTANT?

The Fourth World Conference on Women was an imperative conference convened by the United Nations between the 4–15th of September 1995 in Beijing, China. During this conference, governments around the world came to an agreement on a comprehensive plan to achieve global legal equality between women and men, better known as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Alongside this, the Platform for Action recognised and confirmed previous agreements, including the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which took place the year before.

With participation of 189 governments and over 30,000 non-governmental activists, the conference historically produced and adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, recognised as **the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights globally**. This framework contained principles on 12 critical areas of concern for women.* 25 years later, the Platform for Action is still relevant as a framework for holding governments to account and supporting advocacy efforts, in the fight to reach gender equality.

* Areas of concern include: Women and poverty, Education and training of women, Women and health, Violence against women, Women and armed conflict, Women and the economy, Women in power and decision-making, Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, Human rights of women, Women and the media, Women and the environment, The girl child

In order to ensure governments' compliance with the commitments enshrined in the Beijing Platform for Action, since 1995 every 5 years, a review conference is organised to keep monitoring progress done and setting recommendations to governments for the following 5 years. In 2020, 25 years after the Beijing Declaration was adopted, we live in a different world, where we see more and more rising backlash on women's rights and a more-than-ever outspoken anti-choice anti-gender equality movement.

IT IS HIGH TIME TO REITERATE COMMITMENT TO THAT PROGRESSIVE SET OF ACTIONS AND TO HOLD OUR GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHAT THEY AGREED TO DO FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS 25 YEARS AGO.

▶ AIM OF THIS TOOLKIT

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as a matter of gender equality was addressed in the Beijing Platform for Action, both specifically and within all forms of gender-based violence, in several critical areas of concern, namely: women and health, violence against women, human rights of women and the girl child. Each critical area includes strategic objectives followed by specific actions to be taken by governments (and other key actors). As such, this user-friendly Toolkit was created to highlight what governments agreed to do 25 years ago, related to FGM. Such information has been categorised based on the various priorities. The last column includes key asks to help you and your governments look at the **specific steps that should have been taken to end FGM based on the Beijing Platform for Action**. Has your government done so?

THE AIM OF THIS TOOLKIT IS TO SUPPORT NATIONAL ADVOCACY IN LIGHT OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION ADOPTION AND TO ANALYSE PROGRESS MADE.

▶ HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

You are invited to use this Toolkit to **approach your governments with the questions listed in the right column of the table**. At national level, advocacy targets to whom you will ask these questions will differ based on the country concerned and their government departments, but they will certainly include: ministries of education, health, equal opportunities, justice, finance, research and interior. Moreover, you can also approach universities, schools, hospitals and professionals in different sectors to enquire on whether they have complied with commitments of the Beijing Declaration.

Even though these questions might not come as a surprise and might already be included in your normal advocacy asks, it is important to know (and to mention to decision-makers) that these issues are also included in the Beijing Platform for Action. This can be an extra leverage, particularly on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, for your governments to have a further push and act on them, in case they have not done so.

You will also have the possibility, based on these questions, to rank your governments in terms of the level of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action commitments.

Give your government a mark
and see how good/bad it is doing!



PRIORITY	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS	ASKS
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE C.1. Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health-care, information and related services		
GENDER-SENSITIVE HEALTH PROGRAMMES¹	<p>Design and implement gender-sensitive health programmes in cooperation with women and community-based organisations</p> <hr/> <p>Provide a broad range of quality primary health-care services (including mental health services) that are accessible and adapted to women's needs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there gender-sensitive health-care programmes for FGM survivors? 2. Have such programmes been designed and are they implemented in cooperation with women and community-based organisations (CBOs)? <hr/> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a broad range of quality health-care services available for FGM survivors, including mental health services, sexological, gynaecological care and reconstructive surgery? 2. Check if there has been extra efforts taken to remove obstacles and ensure such services are accessible to FGM survivors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ geographically (throughout the national territory) ▶ financially (free of charge and covered by health insurance) ▶ culturally (in terms of sensitivity and language) ▶ administratively (regardless of migration status) ▶ through accessible services (e.g. linguistically, brought to affected communities)

HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON GENDER-SENSITIVE HEALTH PROGRAMMES?

Very poorly      Very good

1 106(b, e, q), 111(c), 125(a, b, h)

PRIORITY	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS	ASKS
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE C.2. Strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health		
EDUCATION PROGRAMMES²	Give priority to both formal and informal education programmes for both men and women that emphasise the elimination of harmful attitudes and practices, including Female Genital Mutilation and other harmful attitudes and practices related to the life, health and well-being of women, and recognise that some of these practices can be violations of human rights and ethical medical principles. Provide assistance to youth non-governmental organisations to strengthen them in addressing youth concerns related to health, including sexual and reproductive health.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does your government prioritise formal and informal educational programmes for both men and women that emphasise the elimination of harmful attitudes and practices, including FGM? 2. Does your government provide material, financial and logistical assistance to youth non-governmental organisations in addressing youth concerns related to health, including sexual and reproductive health?
<p>HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON EDUCATION PROGRAMMES?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Very poorly      Very good </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </p>		
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE C.5. Increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health		
BUDGET ALLOCATION³	Increase budgetary allocations for primary health-care and social services to support survivors of violence, with adequate support for secondary and tertiary levels.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there adequate budget allocations towards health services for FGM survivors (including psychological, sexological and gynaecological care and reconstructive surgery)? 2. Does health insurance cover such services completely (free access to care)?
<p>HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON BUDGET ALLOCATION?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Very poorly      Very good </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </p>		




EDUCATION PROGRAMMES²

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1. Does your government prioritise formal and informal educational programmes for both men and women that emphasise the elimination of harmful attitudes and practices, including FGM?

2. Does your government provide material, financial and logistical assistance to youth non-governmental organisations in addressing youth concerns related to health, including sexual and reproductive health?

HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON EDUCATION PROGRAMMES?

Very poorly      Very good

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE C.5.
Increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health






BUDGET ALLOCATION³

Increase budgetary allocations for primary health-care and social services to support survivors of violence, with adequate support for secondary and tertiary levels.

1. Are there adequate budget allocations towards health services for FGM survivors (including psychological, sexological and gynaecological care and reconstructive surgery)?

2. Does health insurance cover such services completely (free access to care)?

HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON BUDGET ALLOCATION?

Very poorly      Very good

2 107(a), 111(b)
















3 110(a), 111(a), 124(p)

PRIORITY	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS	ASKS
<p>MONITORING, IMPLEMENTATION & COORDINATION⁴</p>	<p>Establish ministerial and inter-ministerial mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of women’s health policy and programme reforms, including high-level focal points, to ensure that women’s health concerns are mainstreamed in all relevant government agencies and programmes. Support NGOs working on women’s health and help develop networks aimed at improving coordination and collaboration between all sectors that affect health.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has your government established ministerial and inter-ministerial mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of women’s health policy and programmes concerning FGM? 2. Are there high-level focal points to ensure that women’s health concerns, including FGM, are mainstreamed in all relevant government agencies and programmes? 3. Does your government support coordination networks between NGOs / CBOs and professionals from the health sectors?

HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON MONITORING, IMPLEMENTATION & COORDINATION?

Very poorly      Very good

4 106(t), 110(e)

PRIORITY	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS	ASKS
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE D.1. Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women		
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS⁵	Ratify relevant international human rights norms and instruments that relate to violence against women and take steps to implement them.	1. Has your government ratified relevant international instruments addressing FGM, such as the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW? 2. Are these instruments effectively implemented and is this implementation regularly monitored?
<p>HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Very poorly      Very good </p>		
ANTI-FGM LEGISLATION⁶	Adopt, implement and review legislation abandoning practices and acts of violence against women, such as FGM (in accordance with international law). This includes legislation to protect the girl child.	1. Is FGM criminalised (through a specific separate ad hoc legislation, a specific provision in the Penal Code or within a general provision in the Penal Code)? 2. Is the principle of extraterritoriality applicable? 3. Are such legislation in accordance with the Istanbul Convention? 4. Are there any existing monitoring systems to review legislation effectiveness?
<p>HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON ANTI-FGM LEGISLATION?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Very poorly      Very good </p>		
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AGAINST FGM⁷	Take urgent action to combat and eliminate violence against women, including FGM. Formulate and implement, at all appropriate levels, plans of action to eliminate violence against women.	Is there a specific/general National Action Plan (NAP) addressing FGM?
<p>HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON NATIONAL ACTION PLANS AGAINST FGM?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Very poorly      Very good </p>		

5 124(e), 274(a)

6 124(a, d, i), 126(d), 232(l), 283(b, d)

7 107(q), 124(l, j), 232(g, h), 276(d)

PRIORITY	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS	ASKS
<p>COMMUNITY BEHAVIOUR CHANGE⁸</p>	<p>Adopt all appropriate measures to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, and to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does your government encourage and support NGOs and especially community-led initiatives in their efforts to promote changes in negative attitudes and practices towards girls? 2. Have there been government-led FGM awareness raising campaigns? 3. Does the government have sustainable long-term funding schemes towards awareness raising initiatives (including for the mobilisation of affected communities)?
<p>HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON COMMUNITY BEHAVIOUR CHANGE?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Very poorly      Very good </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </p>		
<p>GENDER-SENSITIVE TRAINING⁹</p>	<p>Ensure gender sensitive training is funded and provided for: primary health workers, judicial, legal, medical, social, and educational and police and immigrant personnel, researchers and those involved in the healing and rehabilitation and other assistance programmes for victims of violence. So they recognise and care for girls and women of all ages who have experienced any form of violence, especially domestic violence and sexual abuse.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is FGM included in compulsory initial and continuous (gender & culturally sensitive) education/training provided for all relevant professionals in different sectors? 2. Does your government fund such training?
<p>HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON GENDER-SENSITIVE TRAINING?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Very poorly      Very good </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </p>		

8 124(k, p), 126(b)

9 106(q), 107(p), 109(a), 124(n), 232(i), 283(c)

PRIORITY	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS	ASKS
<p>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE D.2. Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures</p>		
<p>RESEARCH, DATA COLLECTION, STATISTICS¹⁰</p>	<p>Introduce systems that allow for the use of data collected, analysed and disaggregated by, among other factors, sex and age, other established demographic criteria and socio-economic variables, in policy-making, as appropriate, planning, monitoring and evaluation;</p> <p>Create or strengthen institutional mechanisms for women and girls to report acts of violence against them, safely, confidentially and free from the fear of penalties or retaliation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is there a system of disaggregated data collection? 2. Are there effective, confidential, safe and simple reporting mechanisms for FGM cases nationally?
	<p>Promote research, collect data and compile statistics relating to the prevalence of different forms of violence against women. Encourage research into the causes, nature, seriousness and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of measures implemented to prevent and redress violence against women.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are there mechanisms in place collecting and compiling data, such as centralised national database/register gathering all FGM cases? 2. Is there government supported research, surveys and/or estimations focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ National FGM prevalence calculation? ▶ The number of women and girls at risk of FGM? 3. Does your government promote research concerning violence against women and girls, including FGM, in your country, Europe and beyond, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ensuring a focus on research gaps surrounding FGM prevention, protection, prosecution and integrated policies and more generally best practices? ▶ Research on the causes, nature, seriousness and consequences of violence against women, including FGM? ▶ Health consequence of FGM?

HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON RESEARCH, DATA COLLECTION AND STATISTICS?






Very poorly










Very good

10 109(a), 124(l), 129(a, b, c)

PRIORITY	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS	ASKS
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1.3. Achieve legal literacy		
RAISING LEGAL AWARENESS¹¹	Translate and disseminate, in easily understandable formats, information relating to laws and human rights of all women. Take appropriate measures to ensure those concerned are made aware of their human rights and of the recourse mechanisms available to them.	1. Check if there are relevant documents/information translated into languages spoken by FGM-affected communities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Laws relating to FGM ▶ Training/awareness raising materials ▶ Available services and support ▶ Other relevant information 2. Are all information concerning FGM publicised and disseminate to FGM-affected communities, in easily understandable formats and alternative formats appropriate for persons of all literacy levels?
HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON RAISING LEGAL AWARENESS?	Very poorly      Very good	

11 233 (a, b, c, e, i)

PRIORITY	ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS	ASKS
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1.2. Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls		
ENGAGE COMMUNITIES AROUND GIRLS' RIGHTS¹²	Organise, support and fund campaigns to raise awareness about gender equality, violence against women, including FGM, within communities. Sensitise and inform adults about the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices on girl children, and take steps so that tradition, religion and their expressions are not a basis for discrimination against girls.	Are there programmes to sensitise communities around the rights of the girl child, including engaging youth, men, boys and religious leaders?
<p> HOW IS YOUR COUNTRY DOING ON ENGAGING COMMUNITIES? Very poorly      Very good </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> </p>		

12 125(e), 126(b), 276 (a, b, d), 277(d)

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The End FGM European Network

The End FGM European Network is an umbrella of 30 organisations in 14 European countries working to ensure sustainable European action to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). We are the central platform connecting grassroots communities and European decision-makers. The Network facilitates cooperation between all relevant actors in the field of FGM both in Europe and globally. Our mission is to be the driving force of the European movement to end all forms of Female Genital Mutilation.

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