

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
Congress 2017 in NICOSIA CYPRUS

Proposal Gudrun Haupter suggested by Anje Wiersinga (09/10/2017)

IAW Resolution on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting 10-17_Resolution-FGM_draft

The 37th Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
together in Nicosia, Cyprus on 2017 resolves

Based on

- 1) The IAW Resolution of 2010 on Traditional Values stating that in countries with plural legal systems traditional and customary norms which confer rights and power of decision to the male members of society to the detriment of women's health and development including harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, must not undermine standards and principles enshrined in international human rights instruments
- 2) The CEDAW General Recommendation No. 14 from 1990 on FGM
- 3) The Declaration of 05/10/2017 at the CoE of the Committee of Ministers calling for effectively preventing and combating FGMⁱ
- 4) The President's Letter on FGM 1 August 2016, with ample information on the issue
- 5) Additional information from the Convener of the Commission on Health
- 6) The WHO Factsheet on FGM/C updated in Feb/2017 stating inter alia that FGM/C constitutes an extreme form of discrimination.

The IAW requests

- On the International level: The implementation of standards and principles enshrined in international human rights instruments
- On the national level: The implementation of legal bans with clauses to punish the perpetrator
- On the community level:
 - Discussions among women as well as among men on the reasons of the practice and on the effects on their own health and on their sexuality, finally leading to the conviction that the negative effects do not justify the continuation of the custom.

- Strategies for convincing of the need to abandon deep-rooted beliefs and myths about dire consequences if a woman is not circumcised. They cover up what is basically always behind them: controlling women's sexualityⁱⁱ

The board and members to work for making IAW standpoints known in their countries and networks, in particular

- Spreading information about health centers which offer help to women and girls suffering from the consequences of FGM
- Calling for *Zero tolerance for FGM/C* each 6th Februaryⁱⁱⁱ meaning in the first place No loopholes like medicalization, no pricking or other "or" Type 4 procedures to conform to social norms. Women's sexual and reproductive health rights have to be respected. To avoid complications at birth access to contraception is of particular importance.

The URL to guide you to the above-mentioned documents are

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/index.html>

http://www.coe.int/en/web/cm/news/-/asset_publisher/hwwluK1RCEJo/content/committee-of-ministers-calls-for-effectively-preventing-and-combating-female-genital-mutilation-and-forced-marriage/16695?inheritRedirect=false&redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.coe.int%2Fweb%2Fcm

<http://womenalliance.org/female-genital-mutilation-fgm>

<http://womenalliance.org/female-genital-mutilation-fgm-additional-information>

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs241/en/index.html>

The WHO fact sheet on FGM/C was updated in Feb. 2017. Reading it is recommended, not only for the medical information but also for the different explanations why FGM is practiced. It also has a resume of *International Response* and of *WHO Response*. As to the violation of the human rights of women and girls it states that FGM/C constitutes an extreme form of discrimination.

ⁱ Their Declaration prompted the proposal of an IAW Resolution.

ⁱⁱ Her health is jeopardized, so is that of the man and the child; she develops excessive libido, is prone to marital infidelity and prostitution; she gets sick and infertile; the man gets impotent because of the woman's "penis" – her clitoris which also interferes with sexual intercourse and birth and kills the baby.

ⁱⁱⁱ The International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM/C