Breakfast Round-table and Discussion
"International Campaign for a United Nations General Assembly Resolution to ban FGM worldwide"

09:00-11:00 28 February 2011
Delegates Dining hall
United Nations Headquarters

The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC), the European Network for the Prevention and Eradication of Harmful Traditional Practices (Euronet-FGM) and the NGO No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) have spearheaded the International Campaign for a United Nations General Assembly Resolution to Ban FGM Worldwide. In conjunction with the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, a Round-table and Discussion will be held on 28 February 2011 to present the BanFGM Campaign and discuss steps forward.

The Breakfast Round-table and Discussion, chaired by the First Lady of Burkina Faso H.E. Mrs Chantal Compaoré, will bring together African and European activists, representatives of civil society organizations who have been at the forefront of the BanFGM Campaign since its inception.

The event is intended as a moment in which to bring together stakeholders and all interested parties to provide an overview of the BanFGM Campaign to date and to discuss possible strategies which can be pursued so as to work towards the rapid adoption of a Resolution by the United Nations General Assembly.

FGM is one of the most widespread and systematic violations of the universal human right to personal integrity, committed against millions of women and girls worldwide, abusing their physical and psychological and damaging their lives irreversibly. It is an affront to human dignity, a violation of fundamental human rights, and is increasingly being recognised as such by children, women and men around the world.

FGM is considered to be a harmful practice by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as by the Convention on the Rights of Child, both of which encourage States to take action to eliminate it. The African Union, through the Protocol to the Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, commits States parties to prohibit, through legislative measures backed by sanctions, all forms of FGM, and nineteen of the twenty-eight African States in which FGM is committed have adopted legislation to prohibit and condemn it.

This is why a United Nations General Assembly Resolution is so important: it recognises once and for all that FGM is a human rights violation; acknowledges its gravity and effect on the lives of millions of people; and demonstrates clear commitment and political will at the highest levels to ban the practice. It reinforces the importance of previous UN declarations protecting the rights of women and children and mirrors the important steps already taken at the regional level.

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