Together to support the UN Resolution banning Female Genital Mutilation worldwide

65th UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY - 2010
NO PEACE WITHOUT JUSTICE

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Twenty-six years of international action has brought us to a significant moment in the fight against female genital mutilation.

The path has been long and difficult, and it is now important to mobilise all possible efforts to promote and to ensure the adoption, at the 65th United Nations General Assembly in 2010, of a Resolution banning female genital mutilation and by doing so to strengthen this decisive battle for human rights worldwide.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a form of violence against women and girls and one of the most widespread and systematic violations of the human rights. The term describes all procedures that involve the partial or total removal of female genitalia or any other injuries to female genital organs. It includes cutting, slicing, piercing, excision of the clitoris, infibulation and any injury to the women’s genitals without therapeutic reasons, often committed on religious or cultural pretexts. The highest religious authorities of all major religions have declared that there is no religious justification for the practice.

To this end, we ask for your help to put an end to this human rights violation, committed on 150 million women worldwide and to which 3 million additional girls are subjected each year.

On the cover Khady Koita at the age when she was subjected to female genital mutilation. Today Khady is one of the most active anti-FGM militants, founder and president of the association La Palabra. The image was kindly provided by OH! Editions. All rights reserved.
The importance of a Resolution at the United Nations General Assembly

A Resolution, in addition to being a worldwide ban on female genital mutilation and recognising this practice as a violation of human rights, specifically the right to physical integrity, would also provide strong and clear support for all activists working to bring an end to the practice. Specifically, a General Assembly Resolution will:

- reinforce the legitimacy of laws already adopted;
- reinforce the importance of previous steps by United Nations, including the political weight of the Resolutions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW);
- reinforce the regional and international conventions that recognise FGM as a violation of human rights, for instance Article 5 of the Protocol to the Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;
- give new impetus to efforts to improve national laws banning FGM where they exist, or to adopt one, where they do not;
- provide States with recommendations on elements for the adoption of effective national legislation and help the adoption of national legislation to ban the practice;
- reinforce the efforts of anti-FGM activists at the national and regional level and provide legitimacy to those working towards the enactment of legislation in states where as of yet there is none;
- encourage the allocation of sufficient resources to the effective implementation of legislation and action plans aimed at eliminating female genital mutilation.

The INTER-AFRICAN COMMITTEE (IAC), EURONET-FGM and NO PEACE WITHOUT JUSTICE: the long road to a Resolution

The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC) is an international non-governmental organisation created at the Dakar Seminar of February 1984. From an initial membership in twenty African countries, today the organisation includes national committees in twenty eight African countries and representations in eight European countries, the USA, Canada, Japan and New Zealand. The IAC has a multi-sectoral approach, with a focus on community projects, aimed at having an impact at the political level and establishing the preconditions for a shift in attitudes in regards to female genital mutilation.

European Network for the Prevention and Eradication of Harmful Traditional Practices (Euronet-FGM) grew out of a need recognised over years of meetings of activists working to eliminate FGM in Europe and elsewhere outside of Africa. The informal collaboration undertaken by these activists grew from simple information sharing in 1995 to the establishment of an official network in 2002 which has worked to strengthen cooperation among its members, exchange best practices and implement joint projects.

Sixteen years after the IAC began its work, No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) joined the campaign against FGM. Under the guidance of its founder Emma Bonino, NPWJ shifted the nature of the debate about FGM from one centered on health to one that recognises the practice as a violation of human rights.

This approach facilitated the creation of synergies among the activists in different countries and was a strong impetus to promote legislative instruments at all levels. Of the 28 African countries in which FGM is practiced, 19 have a national law that prohibits the practice: this is significant, also because laws legitimise activists working to end FGM, by providing judicial support as well as by establishing the preconditions necessary for social change. The African States which have not yet enacted specific legislation are: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan. Many countries in Europe and North America, in which FGM is now practiced as a result of migration over recent decades, have also enacted legislation prohibiting FGM.
Important dates in 10 years of activity

**DECEMBER 2000 - TOURELA, MALI**
In December 2000, Emma Bonino visited the village of Tourela, where the community had decided to end FGM and replace the practice with a celebration to mark girls’ passage to adulthood.

**2000, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**
At the initiative of Radical Party Members of the European Parliament and Emma Bonino, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution condemning FGM and recognising it as a violation of fundamental human rights.

**6 MARCH 2001 - ROME, ITALY**
Upon her return to Italy from Mali, Emma Bonino organised a conference in the Italian Chamber of Deputies with activists from a number of African countries. Among the participants in the conference were Khady Koita, one of the most determined and committed activists in the fight against FGM.

**10-12 DECEMBER 2002 - BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**
In collaboration with EuroNet FGM, the Italian Women’s Association for Development (AIDOS) and seven African NGOs, NPWJ launched the international campaign “StopFGM!”

**21-23 JUNE 2003 - CAIRO, EGYPT**
The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), in collaboration with NPWJ and AIDOS, organised the International Conference on “Legal Tools for the Prevention of FGM” under the auspices of First Lady Suzanne Mubarak, and adopted the Cairo Declaration for the Elimination of FGM.

**JULY 2003, THE “MAPUTO PROTOCOL”**

**16-18 SEPTEMBER 2004 - NAIROBI, KENYA**
The Government of Kenya and NPWJ, in partnership with the Association of Media Women in Kenya, organized the “International Conference on FGM: developing a political, legal and social environment to implement the Maputo Protocol”; its final declaration, The Nairobi Declaration on Implementing the Maputo Protocol, stresses the importance of the use of law as a component of a multi-disciplinary approach to eradicate FGM.

**2-3 FEBRUARY 2005 - DJIBOUTI, DJIBOUTI**
Under the patronage of First Lady Kadra Mahmoud Haid, the government of Djibouti and NPWJ organised a sub-regional conference, “Towards a Political and Religious Consensus against Female Genital Mutilation”. The final declaration, which followed a sometimes heated exchange among the religious dignitaries present, firmly stated that FGM has no religious justification either in the Quran or in any other core religious text.
21-22 FEBRUARY 2006 - BAMAKO, MALI
The government of Mali, NPWJ and various national NGOs organised the “Sub-Regional Conference on Female Genital Mutilation and the implementation of the Maputo Protocol”, attended by First Lady Touré Lobbo Traoré. The Conference provided the opportunity to highlight the existing consensus within the Sub-Region around the ratification of the Protocol and to discuss effective application of its obligations through the adoption at the national level of legislative measures aimed at eliminating FGM.

15-17 DECEMBER 2007 - KHARTOUM, SUDAN
The Sudanese NGO Entishar Charity Society and NPWJ organised a workshop on FGM Legislation and the Maputo Protocol, within the wider context of the rights of women.

27-28 MARCH 2008 - ASMARA, ERITREA
The National Union of Eritrean Women (NEUW) and NPWJ organised a sub-regional conference on the eradication of FGM.

8-9 OCTOBER 2008 - DJIBOUTI, DJIBOUTI
The National Union of Djibouti Women (UNFD) and NPWJ, under the auspices of the Presidency of the Parliament of Djibouti, organised a Parliamentary Workshop on “The Law against FGM and its Applicability.

14-15 DECEMBER 2008 - CAIRO, EGYPT
Five years after the International Conference in Cairo on “Legal Tools for the Prevention of FGM”, the Egyptian National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) and NPWJ renewed their collaboration for the organisation of a High Level Meeting, under the patronage of First Lady Suzanne Mubarak, to relaunch an international campaign aimed at rekindling worldwide attention on FGM.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009 - BANJUL, GAMBIA AND BAMAOKO, MALI
NPWJ concentrated its efforts on mobilising political will towards the development of legislation banning FGM through supporting activists in Mali and, together with the Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (GAMCOTRAP), organising a National Parliamentary Workshop in Gambia.

9-10 NOVEMBER 2009 - OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO
Under the patronage of First Lady Chantal Compaoré, the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity and NPWJ organised the High-Level Meeting “From Cairo to Ouagadougou: Towards a global ban of FGM”.

4 FEBRUARY 2010 - NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA
The Mauritanian Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (AMPSFE - IAC Mauritania), the Mauritanian Network of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and NPWJ organised a parliamentary Workshop on “Female Genital Mutilation and the Law”.

3-4 MAY 2010 - DAKAR, SENEGAL
The Ministry of Family Affairs of Senegal in partnership with NPWJ and the Senegalese organisation La Palabre organised the Inter-parliamentary Conference “To harmonise the legal instruments prohibiting FGM: consolidating the achievements, sharing the successes, pursuing the advancements! Towards the ban of the practice at the United Nations”. 
8 JUNE 2010 - KAMPALA, UGANDA
The Parliament of Uganda passed a motion ‘for a United Nations Resolution banning Female Genital Mutilation to be Presented by the Ugandan Government, the East African Legislative Assembly and the African Union at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.’

These are some of the steps that have brought us within reach of a UN Resolution, but over the years many individuals and institutions have played an important role: Muslim and Christian religious leaders, the European Parliament (with its Resolutions of 13 march 2008, 8 march 2008, 24 March 2009, 26 November 2009), UN Agencies - OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO.

No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) is an international non-profit organisation founded in 1994 and born of a campaign of the Transnational Radical Party for the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Court, that works for the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and international justice. Current thematic programs (or fields of action) include: promoting democratic reform in the Middle East and North Africa through the creation of a constructive dialogue between governments, parliaments and civil society; campaigning for the ratification and effective implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and in particular for the eradication of female genital mutilation; strengthening an effective system of international criminal justice for the prevention, deterrence and prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

The NPWJ strategy aims at raising awareness and fostering public debate through explicitly political campaigns and the implementation of key programs, such as international and regional meetings, often co-hosted by the Government and NGOs of the country in which they are held. NPWJ also undertakes wide-ranging technical assistance, through the secondment of legal experts to governments for the drafting of legislation and to assist in negotiations on international human rights instruments. Finally, NPWJ has acquired unique field experience in “conflict mapping” and wide scale documentation of violations of international humanitarian law in areas affected by conflicts and in implementing outreach programs engaging local communities in conflict and post-conflict areas on issues of international criminal justice. No Peace Without Justice is a constituent association of the Nonviolent Radical Party Transnational and Transparty, an NGO with General (Category I) consultative status at the United Nations ECOSOC.

No Peace Without Justice has a long experience working and cooperating with many NGOs in Africa and Europe, which fight against FGM, including: Voix des Femmes (Burkina Faso); Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (Gambia); Ghanaian Association For Women’s Welfare (Ghana); Cellule de Coordination sur les Pratique Traditionelles Affectant la Sante des Femmes et des Enfants (Guinea); Association Malienne pour le Sui et l’Orientation des Pratiques Traditionnelles (Mali); Comité Sénégalais de lutte sur les Pratiques Traditionelles ayant effet sur la santé de la Mère et de l’Enfant et La Palabre (Senegal); Manifesto 99 (Sierra Leone); National Union of Women of Djibouti (Djibouti); National Union of Eritrean Women (Eritrea); Kembatta Women’s Self Help Centre (Ethiopia); Association of Media Women in Kenya (Kenya); Association Mauritanienne sur les Pratiques ayant effet sur la santé des femmes et des enfants (Mauritania); Entishar Charity Society (Sudan); Human Rights Network - Uganda (Uganda); Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children, Equality Now Africa Office, Open Society Institute; with parliamentarians, government and local authority representatives from countries in which FGM is, including the Egyptian National Council for Childhood and Motherhood; the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights besides collaborating at the ministerial level with Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Egypt. Furthermore NPWJ has worked with several UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA e UNOPS) and is a partner of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Cooperation, with which NPWJ has worked closely for many years.

NPWJ would like to thank the following for the financial support provided to the campaign against female genital mutilation:
The governments of Austria, Canada, France, Italy, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Thanks also to the European Union, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, CARE, OSI, Plan International, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, Italcementi, Suez Cement, Fondazione Nando Peretti, Community Health Living Project, the Province of Milan, the Province of Torino, the Province of Rome, the Region of Emilia Romagna, the Region of Piemonte, the Region of Puglia, The Municipality of La Spezia, the Municipality of Rome, Anna and Carla Fendi.
TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE UN RESOLUTION BANNING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION WORLDWIDE

DANS LE MONDE FÉMININES PARTOUT MUTILATIONS GENITALES DES NU INTEGRAMENT LES LA RÉSOLUTION POUR SOUTENIR ENSEMBLE

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Tout d'abord, la communauté de France a un rôle majeur dans la promotion de la coopération et la consolidation de la bonne volonté des différents acteurs. En outre, le Programme d’Appui au Développement (PAD) et le Programme d’Appui au Développement de la Coopération (PADC) sont des outils importants qui favorisent la promotion du développement et de la réconciliation des populations. Cependant, il convient de noter que la coopération internationale doit être basée sur des principes éthiques et respectueux de la souveraineté des États. Les actions de coopération doivent être orientées vers le développement durable et doivent respecter les droits de l’homme et les lois internationales. En conclusion, la coopération internationale doit être une entreprise commune où tous les acteurs ont un rôle à jouer. Il est essentiel de promouvoir la coopération internationale en privilégiant les principes de la solidarité et de la responsabilité mutuelle.
4 FEVRIER 2010 - NOUACKCHOTT, MAURITANIE

9-10 NOVEMBRE 2009 - OUAGADOUGOU

8 OCTOBRE 2008 - DAKAR, SENEGAL

3-4 MAI 2010 - DAKAR, SENEGAL

14-15 DECEMBRE 2008 - CAIRE, ÉGYPTE

21-22 FEVRIER 2006 - BAKARO, MALI

17-19 SEPTEMBRE 2002 - BAKARO, MALI

27-28 MARS 2008 - ASMAA, ETRÉE

10-11 SEPTEMBRE 2000 - BAKARO, MALI

7-9 SEPTEMBRE 1999 - BAKARO, MALI

1-3 SEPTEMBRE 1998 - BAKARO, MALI

9-11 SEPTEMBRE 1997 - BAKARO, MALI

15-17 SEPTEMBRE 1996 - BAKARO, MALI

11-13 SEPTEMBRE 1995 - BAKARO, MALI

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11-13 SEPTEMBRE 1983 - BAKARO, MALI

11-13 SEPTEMBRE 1982 - BAKARO, MALI

11-13 SEPTEMBRE 1981 - BAKARO, MALI

11-13 SEPTEMBRE 1980 - BAKARO, MALI

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Reflets des diverses religions préférées.

Le prick de la présence des conséquences du procès de割

mère. Chaque lieu choisi, chaque action, mère a déclamé la déclaration

Institut de la promotion des droits des femmes, IFAF

Belgique

10-12 décembre 2002 - Bruxelles.

Les 10 années d'activités

Dates et étapes importantes

2-3 février 2005 - DIOBOUTI, DIOBOUTI

16-18 septembre 2004 - NAIROBI, KENYA

6 mars 2001 - ROME, ITALIE
CIAF, EURONET-FGM et NO PEACE WITHOUT JUSTICE: un long chemin vers la Résolution

L'importance de la Résolution de l'Onu

La Résolution, en plus d'interdire mondialement les MGF comme violation des droits humains universels, dont en premier lieu le droit à l'intégrité des femmes et des filles, renforcerait la légitimité des lois déjà adoptées; accréditerait l'importance des avancées déjà accomplies par d'autres organes de l'ONU; y comprimerait la valeur politique des résolutions adoptées par la Commission sur la Statut de la Femme (CSW); renforcerait la légitimité des lois déjà adoptées; et encouragerait l'allocation de ressources suffisantes pour la mise en œuvre des lois et des plans d'action nationaux visant à éliminer les mutilations génitales féminines.

Le Comité Inter-Africain sur les pratiques traditionnelles affectant la santé des femmes et des enfants (CIAF) est une organisation non gouvernementale internationale créée au Sénart de février 1994. Composée initialement de membres provenant de 20 pays africains, des organisations comptent aujourd'hui des ouvreurs du monde, du Canada, au Japon et en Nouvelle-Zélande. Le CIAF applique une approche multi-sectorielle, locale, centrée sur les projets au niveau des communautés locales afin d'avoir un impact le plus grand possible et créer des conditions préalables pour un changement des attitudes du sujet des mutilations génitales féminines.

Le Réseau Européen de Pratiques traditionnelles nègres (NERP) est un réseau de référence qui fonctionne avec les associations de militant qui travaillent pour la défense de l'intégrité physique de la personne.

Au cours des années 1990, la campagne contre les MGF a connu une progression significative, car les lois ont été adoptées et respectées. Les États africains qui n'ont pas encore adopté des lois pour interdire les MGF ont été encouragés par la mise en œuvre des activités du CAF, No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) et d'autres organisations de défense des droits de l'homme. La campagne a réussi à sensibiliser le public et à obtenir le soutien des autorités politiques.

A ce jour, parmi les 28 pays africains concernés par la pratique des MGF, on en compte 19 disposant d'une législation nationale qui impose des sanctions pénales. Cependant, il est difficile d'évaluer le nombre de cas où des lois sont effectivement appliquées. La campagne continue de se battre pour une élimination complète des pratiques traditionnelles nègres et pour que les femmes et les filles soient protégées des mutilations génitales féminines.
La guerre a été la bataille de tous les temps. Pour cela raison, nous devrions donc élever à notre place un monument à celui.

Un jour de paix pour ces années de lutte

Secrétaire Général
Niccolo Fraga-Ramacca

Président
Sergio Zanni

Contributions:

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