

## **Call for applicants**

International Stakeholder Dialogue

### **“Gender transformative approaches to ending FGM”**

*October to November 2021, virtual discussions*

**When:** From October to November 2021.

**Where:** The International Stakeholder Dialogue will be held online.

#### **Organizers of the dialogue:**

This international stakeholder dialogue is organized by AIDOS, GAMS Belgium and the END FGM European Network. The dialogue is supported by the **UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation** and **Spotlight Initiative** to eliminate violence against women and girls funded - project “Building bridges between Africa and Europe to tackle FGM”.

#### **What it is about?**

The theme chosen for the meeting is “Gender transformative approaches to ending FGM”. The dialogue will gather stakeholders from the public, private and CSO sector, in Africa, Europe and beyond, working towards the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.

The aim is to provide a concrete set of recommendations for donors and key actors in the field. The conclusions and recommendations will be presented during a final webinar organised back-to-back with the Donors Working Group on Female Genital Mutilation meeting (TBC - November 2021).

In order to gather these recommendations, two working groups (one in English and one in French) will hold a series of 3 meetings of about 2 hours each as follow:

- **WG 1:** Gender transformative approaches to ending Female Genital Mutilation in **English**
- **WG 2:** Gender transformative approaches to ending Female Genital Mutilation in **French**

The working group meetings are expected to be held once every other week, starting the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (see agenda below).

The outcomes of the dialogue will be taken forward in the future work of the [Community of practice on FGM \(CoP FGM\)<sup>1</sup>](http://www.copfgm.org), which provides virtual spaces for collective discussion, ideas and information-sharing on Female Genital Mutilation, whilst applying a Building Bridges: gathering stakeholders from different geographical areas and sectors. Parallel with the International Stakeholder Dialogue, the discussion will also be opened to all members of the CoP FGM through a thematic discussion.

#### **Why a meeting on Gender transformative approaches to ending Female Genital Mutilation?**

As any other form of Gender Based Violence, FGM is closely tied to power relations between men and women. **FGM is a manifestation of gender inequality and as such it needs to be addressed.**

<sup>1</sup> [www.copfgm.org](http://www.copfgm.org)

Programmes that aim to inform and sensitize communities about the negative impacts of FGM, and to eliminate the practice in the long run, must incorporate gender transformative approaches to inform/sensitize or even transform men and boys on the issue of toxic masculinity, which will challenge the gendered social norms, including harmful gender stereotypes, while favoring women and girls' empowerment. Such programmes must challenge gender roles and gender power dynamics, and work to counter them both at institutional and society levels.

The dialogue will therefore support the development and promotion of practical and promising gender transformative approaches to ending Female Genital Mutilation and provide recommendation to relevant stakeholder and donors in this regard.

The dialogue builds on the **Action points of the Generation Equality Forum** that took place in Paris in June 2021.

### What is expected from participants?

- Participate in **3 online working group sessions (2 hours/session)** as per timetable below:
- Share experiences, expertise, challenges and solutions with other participants
- Give input for the conclusion's recommendations

Participants will discuss **how the gender transformative actions may be (or are) implemented in the field, with regard to the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.**

### Agenda of the Working Groups and Webinar

#### WG1 English

- Wednesday the 6th of October, 1:00 – 3:00 pm GMT (15:00 à 17:00 CEST)
- Wednesday the 20th of October, 1:00 – 3:00 pm GMT (15:00 à 17:00 CEST)
- Wednesday the 3d of November, 1:00 – 3:00 pm GMT (14:00 à 16:00 CET)

#### WG2 French

- Thursday the 7th of October, 1:00 – 3:00 pm GMT (15:00 à 17:00 CEST)
- Thursday the 21st of October, 1:00 – 3:00 pm GMT (15:00 à 17:00 CEST)
- Thursday the 4th of November, 1:00 – 3:00 pm GMT (14:00 à 16:00 CET)

**Final webinar** back-to-back to the Donor Working Group (TBC)

### Who can apply?

Anyone who has experience from field work or research in the field of gender transformative approaches to ending Female Genital Mutilation.

Organisations bringing innovative feminist practices and strategies are encouraged to participate and share their experience. Approaches may include: women self-help groups that enable participants to collectively identify root causes and consequences of FGM, to critically review gender roles, gender power relations, and enable them to oppose the practice and enter into an empowering process ; girls and boys SRHR clubs ; men's groups that encourage reflection on hegemonic masculinity and men's role in ending all types of GBV ; training of male allies against FGM ; legal clinics that support the implementation of women's rights through law ; engaging male religious and community leaders ; comprehensive Sexuality Education programs (CSE) that include reflection on gender stereotypes and norms ; women-centered, comprehensive, quality, accessible

and affordable services for FGM survivors. The activities may be implemented by a range of stakeholders such as NGOs, governments, international organizations or professionals including those working in the educational sector.

Please note that a **selection** will be made from the applications received in order to ensure the **diversity of the group** (in terms of geography, expertise and experience) as well as a **reasonable size of the working groups**, allowing for active participation of each person.

Dialogue attendance is free. Participants will not receive any form of payment for their contribution in the working groups.

### How to apply

If you want to participate please fill in this **registration form**:

<https://forms.gle/cBFA9X8z7x7sZBv78>

Deadline for application: **Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> of September** (by midday CEST)

**Questions?** Stéphanie Florquin, coordinator of the CoP on FGM, [cop.mgf@gmail.com](mailto:cop.mgf@gmail.com)