

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

OIC-IPHRC, on the occasion of the 'International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation 2024', calls upon the international community to galvanize efforts for ending all harmful practices that threaten the physical and psychological health of women and girls in accordance with the international human rights standards.

Jeddah, February 6, 2024: The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) joins the international community in commemorating the '*International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) 2024*' and supports the efforts and initiatives aimed eliminating all forms of harmful practices, including FGM, that has the potential to threaten physical, psychological and mental well-being of women and girls under all circumstances.

The Commission considers that harmful practices like FGM are mere traditional customs without any proven religious sanction. On the contrary, the Islamic principles and values categorically condemn such practices and strongly advocates adopting legal and administrative measures to comprehensively eliminate these practices not only as a religious imperative but also for achieving equality, equity, social justice, and sustainable development.

The Commission welcomes that there is a rising awareness across the Muslim world against this practice that endangers the physical and psychological health of women and girls. It was concluded at the **Second Islamic Conference of Ministers in charge of Childhood held in Khartoum in 2009**¹ that FGM is a violation of human rights of girls and women. OIC has adopted '**Cairo Declaration of the OIC on Human Rights**'² in which specific sections are included on '*Human Rights of Women*', which calls for protection of women against all forms of discrimination, violence, abuse and harmful traditional practices. Also, OIC welcomed the UN General Assembly resolution **67/146**, entitled, '*Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations*'³ and resolution **67/144**, entitled, '*Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women*'⁴, both of which were adopted without a vote. *Human Rights Council adopted resolution 44/16* on the elimination of FGM⁵ to speed up efforts to reach zero tolerance for FGM by 2030 and to restate the global ban on the harmful practice as it constitutes a serious violation of women rights. The Goal 5 of **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**⁶ calls for elimination of FGM. Accordingly, **OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW)**⁷ and its comprehensive implementation mechanism⁸, while supporting international efforts, calls for eradication of all harmful practices, in particular, FGM

¹ https://www.oic-oci.org/page/?p_id=241&p_ref=81&lan=en

² http://oic-iphrc.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/FINAL%20OHRD%20CLEAN%20%20VERSION%2024_12_2020.pdf

³ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n12/487/36/pdf/n1248736.pdf?token=zzwjDDW3WTVQtl19dl&fe=true>

⁴ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n12/487/24/pdf/n1248724.pdf?token=2BIWGXAGqVgcb0oeBj&fe=true>

⁵ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g20/190/82/pdf/g2019082.pdf?token=3TFEoa0CcZNhBbFBrR&fe=true>

⁶ <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

⁷ https://oic-iphrc.org/docs/en/legal_instruments/OIC_HRRIT/38864.pdf

⁸ https://oic-iphrc.org/docs/en/legal_instruments/OIC_HRRIT/38864.pdf

The Commission commends the progress made by governments and communities that have taken steps to abandon harmful practices. However, much work remains to be done to fully eradicate such harmful practices. The Commission remains committed to supporting initiatives that empower communities to abandon FGM and create an environment where girls and women can thrive without fear of this harmful tradition. It calls on governments, civil society, religious leaders, and communities to redouble their efforts in raising awareness, providing education, and implementing legal measures to end all harmful practices, including FGM. In this regard, the Commission affirmed its readiness to work together with all relevant OIC institutions and Member States, respecting cultural sensitivities, while promoting education on the health and human rights consequences of such practices. *neruak/sthau*

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06 February 2024

