

SHARING ACTIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASPIRATIONS

30 YEARS SAFEGUARDING RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF AFRICAN WOMEN AND GIRLS







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Foreword

From its humble beginnings in 1983, the Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development (FORWARD) has grown from strength to strength to become a leader in the promotion of African girls' and women's reproductive and sexual health rights.

Now in its 30th anniversary year FORWARD is still trailblazing, firmly placing female genital mutilation (FGM) on international and government agendas as a violation of human rights and as a gender based violence issue.

Over the years FORWARD's work has grown from an organisation of 2 to over 20 staff; nurturing campaigners young and old, reaching communities, the media and decision makers to shape policy and practice at local, national and international levels. As an African diaspora women-led organisation FORWARD is indeed uniquely positioned. Over the last 30 years, we have punched above our weight, initiating innovation in working with young people, men, schools and training professionals and building the capacity of local partners to lead actions that are transformative and sustainable.

Our holistic approach to programming resulted in us recognising the links between child marriage, FGM and obstetric fistula. Today, we are proud to be members of key global movements

and partnerships working to end these issues including The Girl Generation, Girls Not Brides and the End FGM European Network.

This booklet maps out the **30 year history of FORWARD**, reflecting our actions, achievements and aspirations for the future. FORWARD is grateful to the numerous friends and funders who have supported our work and to the many amazing people, women and men who have joined FORWARD's campaign and shaped our knowledge, experience and ambitions.

A luta continua!



DR SOHIER ELNEIL

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"While studying obstetrics in the UK as part of my training to become a nurse, I was suddenly thrown into a situation for which I was not prepared. An African woman had been admitted to the labour ward: she was about to deliver and had undergone the radical form of female genital mutilation [Type 3 - Infibulation]. What was left of her natural external genitals was a mass of scar tissue with only a small opening, hardly enough to admit the little finger. Without splitting the vulval scars, there was no space for the baby to be delivered. This threw the midwives and obstetricians into panic as they were not familiar with this practice and none of them knew how to deliver her, so the baby was born by caesarean section. She had a little girl. There were no midwifery/obstetric policies or protocols on the specialized care of infibulated women in childbirth nor on prevention. Everything was 'hush hush': 'It is a sensitive issue. We must not interfere', 'It is their culture'. Things have not changed very much today. I have often wondered what happened to the little girl. Did she too undergo infibulation?"

Efua Dorkenoo, Founder and Director 1985-1999

Efua Dorkenoo, taken from Introduction to Cutting the Rose, 1994



Efua in later years with long term FORWARD employee Adwoa

FORWARD's beginnings: From 1981 to 1985

FORWARD was founded in 1983 by Efua Dorkenoo OBE, a biosocial scientist, researcher and nurse. While undertaking a midwifery course in the early seventies in Sheffield, Efua's experience of seeing a young mother facing difficulties during childbirth due to FGM sparked her determination to take action.

This practice was later defined by the World Health Organisation as *"all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons"*.

This experience led Efua to research the practice and eventually to take action towards its elimination. FORWARD evolved from the Women's Action Group for Female Excision and Infibulation (WAGFEI), a small group of UK-based women concerned about FGM. Efua coordinated the group between 1981 and 1983 under the auspices of the London-based international human rights organisation, Minority Rights Group (MRG). During this period WAGFEI made links with Africans fighting to eliminate the practice in their countries. Efua then travelled to several countries in Africa, gathering facts on the practice which were later collated into an MRG report on FGM providing tangible recommendations for future actions for the UK. The MRG report was circulated internationally, raising awareness and informing policy.

Three major outcomes resulted from the release of the report:

- a) The facilitation of the formation of an African regional body with national chapters to follow up on work on FGM in African countries, the body later became known as the Inter-African Committee (IAC);
- b) Conceptualising FGM as a human rights issue; and

- c) Placing FGM on the agenda of the United Nations Human Rights Commission as a human rights issue

The release of the MRG publication also evoked media interest and the first UK documentary on FGM was the BBC's *Forty Minutes* programme, shot in the Sudan in 1982 with the advisory support of WAGFEI, who facilitated contacts in the Sudan on behalf of the BBC. The documentary provided the British public with direct evidence of the health complications associated with severe forms of FGM for the first time and aroused major interest in the subject from the British and international public, and among members of the House of Lords.

In 1982, the MRG project on FGM came to an end. As a research and information human rights charity MRG could not take the work on FGM any further. Rather than let the campaign die a natural death, Efua co-opted a small group of dedicated UK and Africa-based women to form FORWARD in 1983 - an international charity with its headquarters in London. The aim of the organisation was identified to *"promote awareness to counter traditional practices prejudicial to the health of women and children"*.

FOUNDING OF FORWARD (1985)

FORWARD's first office was in Efua's living room in Tufnell Park, London where she was supported by Jennifer Kenton who volunteered her services to FORWARD as its first Administrative Secretary.

In 1985 FORWARD was formally registered as a charity; the Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development (FORWARD). We received the first core funding from the government and took up offices at the Africa Centre in Covent Garden, London, where our work would go from strength to strength.

The organisation's first Patrons included several members of the House of Lords, led by Lord Kennet who showed great interest in the subject of FGM. FORWARD's first chair was Baroness Cox, now a crossbench member of the House of Lords.



FORWARD's original logo



1985 - 1990

1985

THE PROHIBITION OF FEMALE CIRCUMCISION ACT

FORWARD was at the forefront of the campaign to have FGM criminalised and lobbied for the UK's first law against FGM: the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act.

While the BBC's *Forty Minutes* documentary on FGM in Africa generated tremendous interest, there was little awareness of FGM in the UK. Local authorities were totally silent, ignoring the growing child protection challenges associated with girls born to women from FGM affected communities in the UK. Lord Kennet introduced a Private Member's Bill on FGM in Parliament. FORWARD worked closely with Lord Kennet to facilitate the passage of the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill through Parliament. The Bill became law in 1985, providing a necessary legislative framework. However, it was clear that the law alone would be inadequate to stop the practice.



1986

"I was in the opposition government at the time [the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill passed] - I believe it was in 1982. The Bill was worded with the correct biological terminology calling for the practice to be outlawed in this country. As is customary in the House of Lords, there are three stages to introducing a Bill. The first stage, which is often referred to as the second reading, is a general discussion. At this stage there was no opposition to the Bill I introduced. It was at the second stage, the committee stage, where a careful examination is required and any amendments introduced. It was here that the Bill found some opposition, as the government disagreed with the Bill on the grounds that they felt it would alienate the minority groups - mainly Somalians at the time - further from British society. Had I introduced a Bill on any other issue, I would have agreed to their rationale. However my conscience and Efua's insistence to press ahead strengthened my resolve to have the practice outlawed. There was nonetheless a 3-line whip called by the Conservatives and the Bill was killed. The Health Secretary at the time was a young Kenneth Clarke. Kenneth Clarke proceeded to introduce his own Bill that was essentially the same though with a subtle change. You see, the philosophy behind the decision to reintroduce the Bill in the Conservative format was because there was a need to preserve a balance in the contentment of an already poorly-integrated society. In the end, the reintroduced Bill was passed which led to the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act of 1985."



Interview with Lord Kennet who sadly passed away in 2009



"My fondest memories working with FORWARD go back to the tiny, insignificant, unattractive office at 38 King Street, Covent Garden, London. It is here that I met and worked with a dynamic, determined, compassionate and intelligent African beauty. A lady whose mission was to rid the women and girl child of FGM and all the traditional practices crippling women and the girl child all over the world (especially those of African origin). Some months the office rent could not be paid (there never were enough funds). Her salary was not paid for several months. Reason: a lack of funds. She placed FORWARD's needs before hers and her family, working all hours without complaining. From time to time she would turn around with a smile and say 'Comfort, it is a good cause, we have a great job to do no matter the obstacles. We shall keep fighting and we shall win because it is a good cause.'"

Comfort Ottah, supporter, volunteer and former trustee

1987

1988

1989

CONFERENCE ON FGM: DILEMMAS FOR PROFESSIONALS IN HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK

In 1989, FORWARD organised a national conference on Female Genital Mutilation: Dilemmas for Professionals in Health, Education and Social Work.

The first conference on FGM in the UK, it brought together African women's groups, community leaders and local authority professionals to discuss the way forward for local authority interventions on FGM.

The key outcome from the conference was the recognition of FGM as child physical abuse, thus bringing it within the ambit of the UK child protection framework and under local authority responsibility. Outcomes also included an explicit call for professionals working on child protection and welfare to undertake training on FGM and for local authorities to fund the training.

The recommendations from the conference gave UK-based professionals direction and tangible guidelines on what to do about FGM. The Department of Health adopted these recommendations as blueprints for local authority action and the government incorporated FGM into the then-new Children Act of 1989. FORWARD supported this work by training local authorities to develop essential policy and procedures on FGM.

1990



1991 – 1995

1992

FIRST EUROPEAN STUDY CONFERENCE ON GENITAL MUTILATION OF GIRLS

FORWARD organised the *First Study Conference on Genital Mutilation of Girls in Europe* to unite campaigners and organisations working to end FGM and to provide a platform to discuss approaches across the continent.

Our aim was to develop a coordinated, unified approach on tackling the practice in western countries. The London conference was attended by professionals from all over Europe and some from as far as Canada and it provided the first opportunity for representatives of national authorities, women's groups, the UN, development agencies and community actors to network and share learning. It was the first time that a strategic model for working on FGM was discussed and agreed. It was also the first time that FGM was formally defined as 'torture', a proposal led by the Canadian delegation of Somali women, and the conference resulted in a consensus that FGM was a human rights violation - a big step for the campaign!



1992

ESTABLISHING THE FIRST AFRICAN WELL-WOMAN CLINIC

The first African Well-Woman Clinic was established at Northwick Park Hospital in North London, with support from FORWARD, to provide tailored services for women who had undergone FGM.

FORWARD provided technical guidance and support to set up the clinic and funded the position of a Somali translator, a critical barrier for women who did not speak English. Today there are over 17 specialist services in the UK and FORWARD has continued to provide technical support to many African Well-Woman clinics set up since.

1991

1993

Rather than righteous indignation, what is urgently needed is understanding of the problem and the practical support to change it. [...] Genital mutilation of girls has become an international issue – a public health hazard and an emergency children's human rights problem. The greatest determination, combined with sensitivity and understanding of local conditions, will be needed if it is to be abolished.

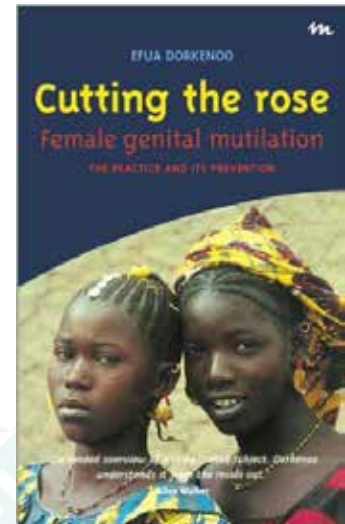
Efua Dorkenoo, Conclusion to Cutting the Rose, 1995 edition

1994

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION RESOLUTION ON FGM

FORWARD was one of two non-governmental organisations called upon to assist the World Health Organization (WHO) in developing a resolution on FGM and Harmful Traditional Practices.

The final resolution acknowledged the serious health consequences of FGM, recognised it as a human rights violation and, most importantly, stated that no medical professional should perform it. Thanks to the adoption of the resolution by this global medical organisation FGM was introduced onto the agendas of African and European health ministries!



1995

CUTTING THE ROSE

FORWARD founder Efua Dorkenoo published **Cutting the Rose: Female Genital Mutilation – The Practice and Its Prevention**.

The book was one of the first comprehensive studies of the practice of FGM and is still recognised as a valuable resource today. In the book Efua addresses the questions of why FGM occurs, how the practice varies among different countries and communities, how it affects health and rights and what steps need to be taken for its eradication.



Gabrielle Poole kindly donated a collection of her artwork for FORWARD to use in our work www.gabriellepool.com



1996 - 2000

1996

FORWARD'S AFRICA PROGRAMME BEGINS

FORWARD began its first project in Africa working in the Gambia with a local women's organisation, Foundation for Research on Women's Health, Productivity and the Environment (BAFROW).

The project initiated the first alternative rites of passage, without cutting, which later became a critical approach to tackling FGM and is used by many communities and organisations today.

The three-year project set up a new woman's clinic and circumcisers were taught about the health consequences of FGM and re-trained in other income-generating skills. Overall the project saw a reduction in the number of FGM cases taking place: in 1996 501 girls underwent FGM in Fulladu and Niamina District, while in 1997 that number fell to 202 girls. BAFROW continued to work with local NGOs in the Gambia, which was very important for the sustainability of the project.



Participants at the consultative workshops in Nigeria, November 1991

Village people now know FGM can be, and is being, discussed. Religious leaders and village leaders from all over the country and the youth in Greater Banjul have met and discussed FGM for the first time ever and some circumcisers have spoken out against FGM and joined the project.

The Gambia Project Report, 1997

1997

Obstetric fistula is a devastating pregnancy-related disability which 2 million young women are estimated to be living with in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia (WHO, 2014). Fistulae happen during obstructed labour when the baby's head exerts prolonged pressure on the mother's pelvis. The blood supply to the tissue around her bladder, rectum, and vagina is cut off, causing tissue damage and creating a hole between the vagina and bladder, or rectum. This results in incontinence and, in most cases, the baby dies as well. Women tend to be stigmatised and shunned due to the smell and a lack of understanding about the cause of the condition.

1998

FORWARD NIGERIA ESTABLISHED

By 1998 FORWARD had learnt through our programmes that FGM tends to be performed on girls when they are young and, in many affected communities, once a girl undergoes FGM she is viewed as mature and ready for marriage.

FGM thus leads to child marriages in many communities and child marriage in turn can result in early pregnancy and childbirth at a time when a girl's body is not ready. Evidence from WHO data indicates that girls under 15 years old are five times more likely to die in childbirth than women over 20, and for every girl who dies in childbirth there are about 30 more who have lifelong health complications, including obstetric fistula.

FORWARD Nigeria's project on obstetric fistula and maternal health was one of the first NGO interventions that recognised the link between harmful traditional practices and obstetric fistula. It was established to improve the health, social and economic wellbeing of women and girls affected by obstetric fistula in Kano and Jigawa States in Northern Nigeria. The project's approach was unique in providing pre- and post-repair support to women, including literacy lessons, training in income generating activities and psychosocial support. FORWARD Nigeria continued for the next 10 years, over which time 126 fistula repairs were undertaken and at least 18 of these women went on to give birth via vaginal delivery without complications. In total of 5,838 women accessed maternal health services provided by the programme.

"There were 18 young ladies who graduated this year. Their average age is between 15 and 29. All of them were married at 13/14 years old and had fistula during their long labour in their village and not being able to go to hospital. Child marriage is a common practice in Kano, Nigeria, and most of the girls will be at least engaged by the time they have their first menstruation. Some of the clients explained how they feel relieved and proud after being cured and spending some time in the rehabilitation centre. It was very emotional seeing them saying goodbye to each other, most of them were crying and hugging each other. One of the clients said 'I got skills and best friends for life in the last few months.'"

Excerpt from Graduation Report, FORWARD Nigeria, 2008

1998

FORUM ON MARRIAGE AND THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Forum on Marriage and the Rights of Women and Girls was the first attempt to place child marriage on the global agenda.

The forum was founded following meetings between FORWARD, Save the Children, Anti-Slavery International, CHANGE, the Child Rights Information Network and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. It was set up to raise the profile of this neglected human rights violation, to conduct research and to develop common agendas for advocacy and policy development. The forum was instrumental in the UK government's subsequent work on child marriage, as well as UNICEF's first report on "Early Marriage: Child Spouses" (2001).

1999

ALICE WALKER AND SKIN JOIN AS FORWARD'S MATRONS

As FORWARD's profile grew we were joined by celebrities to champion our mission as Matrons to the charity.

We were delighted that author Alice Walker and singer Skin, of Skunk Anansie, signed up as FORWARD's Matrons. Alice Walker joined FORWARD following the publication of her novel on FGM, *Possessing the Secret of Joy*. We collaborated together for the UK launch of her subsequent documentary *Warrior Marks*. Baroness Gould, a Labour party politician, later also joined as Matron in 2000.

Dear FORWARD,

Thank you for the comforting letter you sent me, it was nice for me to finally be able to tell somebody about what I've been going through. I always thought no one would ever understand how I feel. It's hard to stop wishing that you'd just never been born in the first place because then you wouldn't have to deal with all this.

Letter from an FGM survivor, 1996

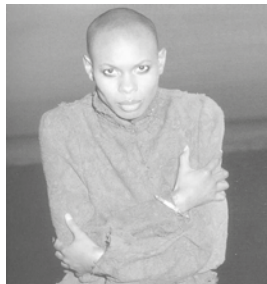
1999

REPORT: OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND?

FORWARD launched a two year research report entitled "Out of Sight, Out of Mind?" which assessed how local authorities responded to the practice of FGM in their areas and what programmes were in place to reach communities.

The research found that 46% reported that FGM affected communities lived in their area and that 25% did not know if there were affected communities in their area. Of all the local authorities surveyed, 65% had no specific policy or procedure relating to FGM.

FORWARD made recommendations including ensuring that processes are in place to assess the risk within the area; developing information systems accessible to all agencies, enabling better inter-agency collaboration and dissemination of information; and inter-agency training for all professionals working with FGM affected communities.



1999

FAITH MWANGI-POWELL BECOMES DIRECTOR

"Sitting in a meeting of traditional leaders and circumcisers in Bawku, Northern Ghana, people stood up one by one denouncing the practice of FGM. My excitement was, however, short-lived. The district gynaecologist, who chaired the meeting, told how she was called out to attend an expectant mother who had been subjected to FGM whilst in labour. She had developed complications as a result. Those attending her had fled. There was grave silence as the doctor narrated the ordeal.

This was heartbreaking for those present, especially for me having travelled so far to attend a meeting intended to mark the beginning of the end of FGM. Some cried. It is difficult to capture the atmosphere that ensued. As you would imagine, being the visiting 'expert', all eyes looked at me as if to say, 'Now what?' I was lost for words momentarily, finding myself wondering what I could say to bring hope to a situation that rendered our meeting apparently worthless. I looked up at the big banner adorning the back of the room. I saw the word 'FORWARD' written in red. It seemed to glow. I felt a flicker of hope. There and then I knew the struggle had to go on."



Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell, FORWARD Director, 1999-2001

1999

MOBILISING MEN AGAINST FGM IN KENYA

FORWARD's first project with men, *Mobilising Men against FGM*, began in Kenya with PATH Kenya and local NGO Maendeleo ya Wanawake.

The project adopted a pioneering approach to ending FGM at the time by engaging men in the campaign against FGM. The project's initial study demonstrated that knowledge of the practice of FGM among men in the communities was high and that the practice was very deep-rooted, but that very few of the men knew of any negative consequences of FGM. Over two years of the project, 21 men and 16 boys were taught about gender issues relating to FGM and trained to become male peer educators, who were thus able to educate fellow men and boys about the harmful effects of FGM. Carrying the message down through the community for a long-lasting impact!



2000

FIRST UK ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY HEARING ON FGM

FORWARD's Chair of Trustees, Naana Otoo-Oyortey, was a member of the steering committee that planned and organised the first UK Parliamentary Hearing on FGM under the auspices of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health.

The aim of the hearing was to raise awareness of FGM in the UK and abroad and to generate support for FGM prevention and response programmes. Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell, then Director of FORWARD, gave evidence on the UK context, calling for effective training, a review of the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act and support for health services and community-based programmes.

The hearing heard further evidence from other agencies and resulted in renewed policy action in the UK. There were a total of 35 recommendations made, calling on the UK government to tighten the FGM Act to ensure that UK residents who take girls abroad to be mutilated can be prosecuted under UK law, known as an extraterritoriality clause. Other recommendations were including FGM as a form of physical abuse in all child protection literature; developing a media and information campaign targeting communities and professionals; and for the Department of Health to coordinate interagency approaches to safeguard girls at risk. The only recommendation that was later taken forward by the government was the 2003 extraterritoriality amendment to the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act.

"The Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act is clearly ineffective and must be changed. It is not a question of race or culture. Cultures are only sacred if they are consistent with human rights. By enforcing FGM legislation we are ensuring that black children are not distinguished from white children. No child should suffer. It is important to have effective legislation to protect all children in this country."

Christine McCafferty MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group, 2001



2001 - 2005

2001

ADWOA KWATENG-KLUVITSE BECOMES DIRECTOR



"I feel like I have been with FORWARD forever! If one is committed to the issues involved, I think one can never leave it. I remember that while I was still working for the local authority, we organised the first local authority workshop on FGM in September 1986. Overall, it seems like only yesterday it all started and it is hard to think that it has already been 30 years. On some days when I feel a bit despondent, it feels like we've been struggling forever to be heard. I believed that we would see FGM abandoned completely during my lifetime, but now I believe that this is not likely. FGM is linked to so many other women's rights violations that make the issue difficult to isolate and deal with. It is a cycle that needs to be broken, as poverty, abuse and many other current problems are intertwined with FGM. In order to find a total abandonment of FGM it needs to be handled in a holistic, multifaceted way that requires a lot of money and dedication."

Adwoa Kwateng-Klavitse, FORWARD Director, 2001-2007

2002

OUAGADOUGOU DECLARATION ON CHILD MARRIAGE

FORWARD and the Forum on Marriage and the Rights of Women and Girls organised a technical consultation on early marriage in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

This was the first conference on child marriage in Africa, attended by organisations from Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal. Participants shared best practice and developed national advocacy action plans to address child marriage. The conference culminated in the development of the Ouagadougou Declaration on Child Marriage, which stated that child marriage is a public health concern that disproportionately affects girls, that it is both a cause and consequence of poverty and a violation of human rights, and that each country should rectify legislative loopholes to eliminate the practice.

We regret that the declaration was not subsequently pursued vigorously by the countries involved. The Maputo Protocol followed, reiterating commitment to end child marriage, but has been largely ignored. The first African Union conference on child marriage took place 13 years later in Zambia in 2015.

2002

EFUA RECEIVES AN OBE

FORWARD's founder, Efua Dorkenoo, is awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her role in the achievements made by FORWARD towards the elimination of FGM and for her sustained and successful work to fight the practice.

"Our Governments and the African Union adopt a clear and unambiguous position on child and forced marriages and rectify the legislative loopholes between religious, customary and civil marriages, sign the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and ensure that special measures are taken to help end this practice."

Extract from the Ouagadougou Declaration, 2002

2003 FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ACT 2003

After further lobbying from FORWARD and other groups, the UK government enacted the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. This was an amendment to the 1985 Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act to address loopholes in the law.

The new act added the “extraterritoriality” clause, meaning that was now illegal to take a British national abroad to undergo FGM. The Act was followed by a visit from David Blunkett, then Home Secretary, to FORWARD’s offices in Kensal Green, in recognition of our extraordinary contribution to getting the extraterritoriality clause added to the law. The meeting table bought for the occasion 12 years ago still sits proudly in the FORWARD offices today!



David Blunkett visiting FORWARD's offices in 2003

2004 FGM: TREATING THE TEARS BOOK LAUNCHED

The publication *Treating the Tears* by Dr Haseena Lockhat provided new insight into women's psychological and sexual experiences after undergoing FGM.

The quotations in the book give voice to the reality of FGM and its effects, which are often underestimated. FORWARD provided technical support to Dr Lockhat during the research process and reviewed the book prior to publication.



FORWARD staff and trustees with Christine McCafferty MP at the Treating the Tears book launch

"The key to eradicating FGM is education and therein is the difficulty – accessing close-knit communities who can often be suspicious of officialdom, to persuade them to abandon a practice that has been deeply rooted in their culture and tradition for centuries. That is why the Department [of Health] is working closely with FORWARD, the leading organisation in this field. FORWARD has the relevant staff and skills to gain access to the practising communities and work with them on FGM."

Melanie Johnson MP, Minister for Public Health, 2004



FORWARD Staff Efua, Adwoa and Naomi at FORWARD offices in 2004

2005

FORWARD PREMIÈRES AWARD-WINNING FILM MOOLAADÉ

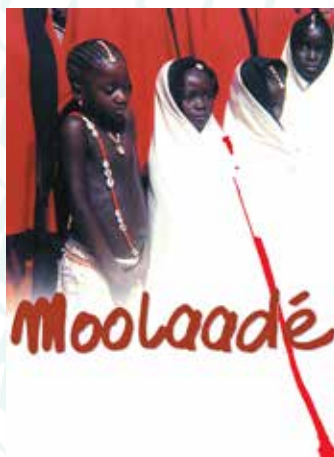
FORWARD launched the UK première of award-winning film *Moolaadé*, attended by the director, Ousmane Sembène, the godfather of African film, and the lead actress Fatoumata Coulibaly.

The film makes a strong argument against FGM, telling the story of a village woman, Collé, in Senegal who uses moolaadé (magical protection) to protect a group of girls from undergoing the practice. She is opposed by the villagers who believe in the necessity of FGM. The film won the Prize for Best Film in the Certain Regard in Cannes 2004 and still carries an important message today. The film was one of the first examples to be used in FORWARD's innovative approach to reaching communities through new media formats.

Ousmane Sembène visited the FORWARD office with the lead actress, where he gave us permission to be a UK official distributor of the film and to develop an advocacy guide to reach wider communities across Africa. *Moolaadé: A Facilitator's Guide to Advocacy* was developed by FORWARD in 2008, used alongside the film in our programmes in Sudan, Ethiopia and Tanzania, and was dedicated to Ousmane Sembène following his untimely death in 2007.

But to take in the entire continent, I should just say sweepingly, [FGM] is a bad practice. We should not lose sight of the fact that it is performed on children. It's not adults who have the operation: it is children. For me, that is the most criminal, the cruellest aspect.

Ousmane Sembène, Director of *Moolaadé*,
2004



Moolaadé film poster
Image copyright Ciné Sud



Moolaadé Director Ousmane
Sembène
Image copyright Ciné Sud

2005

FORWARD INITIATES YOUNG WOMEN'S PROGRAMMES IN SIX AFRICAN COUNTRIES

FORWARD received unrestricted funding from The Sigrid Rausing Trust, which was instrumental in launching new programmes supporting young women's rights and wellbeing in six African countries.

The Sigrid Rausing Trust have been invaluable supporters of FORWARD ever since, enabling us to upscale our impact and creating a critical mass of empowered women and girls advancing human rights across numerous countries. To date this programme has nurtured new organisations led by young people in Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Ethiopia.



FORWARD staff, left, with project from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Tanzania

I KNOW HER,

She's the one that does her homework & turns up for work.
I know myself,
I'm the one that hates work and forgets homework.

I see her,
she walks with elegance, each stride well-paced.
Landing her feet so gently against the ground.
I know she has a handful of friends,
they love her.

They laugh together, work together, help each other.
YET, I'VE SEEN A SIGN OF SADNESS IN HER EYES.
A sadness that until now had gone unnoticed.
She spoke,
is it possible to describe this? She's suffered with life, suffered by her life.

LIGHTS TURN ON,

all her knowledge on a plate, luring me in.
Her words pierce deeper into my mind,
Filled with pain and sadness.
Growing into motivation and encouragement.
If I leave silently, I'm just as guilty as those who did this to her.
Her words urging me to **ACT UPON THESE THOUGHTS**
I can be like her. **COURAGEOUS.**

I KNOW HER

Written by Kaltun Duale

THE LIGHTS TURN OFF,

So trapped in the thought of her life.
"FGM is wrong." Powerful.
"Why shorten it?" Brave.
"It is Female Genital
Mutilation."

DID SHE SAY FGM?

Innocence shared in her face,
yet experiences reflected
in her voice.

COURAGEOUS.

I wanted to know more.
To ask, to learn,
to discover.
I turn my head,
she's gone.
Silent flight,
almost like
an owl.

LOUD SHOUTS WILL ALLOW PEOPLE TO HEAR.

THEY NEED TO LISTEN.
With many small whispers,
I'll say
"FGM IS WRONG."



2006 - 2010

2006

YOUNG PEOPLE SPEAK OUT!

Young People Speak Out! (YPSO!), FORWARD's youth programme, hit the scene in 2006 to build on the energy and power of young people from FGM affected communities.

The innovative project began a youth-led campaign to stop gender-based violence, with a particular focus on FGM and child marriage.



The programme has escalated over the years and is now a national programme, with partners in Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol and London empowering young people across England to say no to FGM. Since it was established it has led to the creation of many inspiring projects and has resulted in workshops, poetry, art and, of course, change in FGM affected communities ever since!

2006

PARTNERSHIP BEGINS WITH CDF IN TANZANIA

Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) is a national NGO which aims to improve the dignity and human rights of children, especially girls, in Tanzania.

FORWARD began its partnership with CDF when they set up in 2006. Initially, we worked with CDF to build their programme and organisational capacity and helped to integrate girls' rights issues and empowerment approaches in their programmes. We went on to carry out participatory research in partnership and established the Tanzania National Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN), of which CDF is the chair. CDF is now recognised as one of the foremost organisations working to protect girls' rights in Tanzania in the area of FGM and child marriage.

2007

THE FIRST PREVALENCE STUDY ON FGM IN THE UK

FORWARD carried out the first FGM prevalence study in England and Wales to provide baseline information for people working with FGM cases in the UK.

Launched in 2008 and entitled A Statistical Study to Estimate the Prevalence of FGM in England and Wales, it specifically showed that over 32,000 girls under 15 were at high risk of FGM and that the number of women living with FGM in England and Wales was substantial and increasing. The research methodology used subsequently formed the basis of further research on FGM across Europe.

The recommendations from the study called on the UK government to undertake further surveys to provide more reliable estimates of the prevalence of FGM in England and Wales; to routinely collect data on FGM from health and social services to inform better care and service provision; to give FGM equal status with other forms of child abuse; and to strengthen and promote community work.

It was only in 2014 that the government responded to the report's recommendations by funding further research into FGM prevalence and introducing mandatory data collection on FGM cases in all acute health settings. The new research was released by Equality Now and City University.

"We regard ourselves honoured to have FORWARD's technical support. We have quickly learnt to be trusted, accountable and confident in our actions. Now we are moving forward very fast, stable and prosperous."

Koshuma Mtengeti, Children's Dignity
Forum, Tanzania

2007

FORWARD INTRODUCES A NEW LOGO

FORWARD
Safeguarding rights & dignity

2007

NAANA OTOO-OYORTEY BECOMES DIRECTOR

"Successfully lobbying Trust for London to support community-based programmes, which lead to a joint investment from Trust for London and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation of over £2.6 million over six years for 14 community organisations is one of my striking memories and introducing PEER research into FORWARD's programmes has been extremely powerful. It has given me great pleasure to meet and see the transformation of many women and girls affected by FGM, child marriage and fistula who were trained as researchers."

Naana Otoo-Oyorley, Executive Director, 2007-present

2008

FORWARD INITIATES THE BRISTOL COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

FORWARD initiated an innovative community development approach, working to empower women from FGM affected communities in Bristol to respond to FGM.

Implemented with Refugee Women of Bristol, the project forms part of the wider Bristol City delivery group on FGM, bringing together a range of organisations. By 2015 50 women had received training to become Community Health Advocates on FGM, a core part of the programme. These women go on to undertake outreach to their peers, run parents sessions and give one-to-one support to other members of their communities. The project also includes a youth programme, supports professionals training,



engages men and resulted in the first community march against FGM in the UK. This multi-agency, coordinated community approach to ending FGM, initiated by FORWARD, is now recognised as a model of best practice for tackling FGM.

2009

'FGM IS ALWAYS WITH US: EXPERIENCES, PERCEPTIONS AND BELIEFS OF WOMEN AFFECTED BY FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION'

FORWARD conducted its first participatory ethnographic evaluation research (PEER) in three UK cities, entitled FGM is always with us: *Experiences, Perceptions and Beliefs of Women Affected by Female Genital Mutilation*, with support from Options consultancy.

PEER is a unique type of research that trains community women and young people to be the primary researchers. Following the training they interview their peers to learn about the experiences, perceptions and beliefs of women affected by FGM. The research thereby provided affected women with a platform to make their voices heard about FGM, without invading their personal lives or space, to shed a unique light on the problem. This UK study was used extensively by the UK government in 2011 as part of the Multi-Agency Guide on FGM launched by Lynne Featherstone, the then UK Champion on Violence Against Women and Girls. By 2015 FORWARD had carried out six similar studies in Africa and PEER has become a key part of FORWARD's programme of formative research.

"FGM affected communities in Bristol are the part of the solution when it comes to campaigning against FGM. In our work, their voices are heard and their contributions of educating the wider communities about FGM are well recognised and appreciated. It developed from a grassroots level to multiagency work and achieved well deserved recognition nationally. I am very proud to be part of this work."

Layla Ismail, Community Development Worker, Bristol

Elders may exert pressure on the young to participate in this practice. However the younger population in the UK often refuse because they know it is a crime. Some have even started to fight against these harmful practices through joining voluntary organisations. Young people are the most insistent on ending the practice of FGM although amongst the older generations there are still some who want to circumcise their daughters.

UK PEER Participant

2009

EUROPEAN END FGM CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

On the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women a European campaign against FGM was launched by Amnesty Ireland, uniting 14 countries to end the practice with FORWARD representing the UK.

This European collaboration to end FGM continues today as a Network. FORWARD led the transition of the Campaign into a European Network in 2014 and our Executive Director is currently the President of the End FGM European Network!



FORWARD Director receives her MBE from the Queen

2009

NAANA OTOO-OYORTEY AWARDED AN MBE

In 2009 Naana Otoo-Oyortey, our dedicated Executive Director, was given an MBE from the Queen in recognition of her dedication to defending women's rights. Naana has been the Executive Director of FORWARD for 8 years and has been working for us in various roles since 2000!

2009

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING BEGINS

As part of our Community Intervention Programme we developed a Health and Leadership training course, as a powerful tool to engage African diaspora women to share knowledge, experiences and support each other.

The training creates a positive, safe and collaborative environment for women to learn about FGM and how it affects wellbeing and health, to learn about laws relating to FGM, and to access training on counselling and outreach skills to support other women in their communities. Since the programme began we have trained 290 women across England to be Community Champions!

2010

FORWARD BECOMES A MEMBER OF GIRLS NOT BRIDES

Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of more than 550 civil society organisations from over 70 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential.

FORWARD became a member of the partnership in 2010 when it was founded and is currently co-chair of the UK network alongside Plan UK. Stronger together, Girls Not Brides members bring child marriage to global attention, build an understanding of what it will take to end child marriage and call for the laws, policies and programmes that will make a difference in the life of millions of girls.



GIRLS NOT BRIDES

"My ex-husband's friends used to laugh at him as I have not been mutilated. Even my in-laws used to call me 'msagani' [a term for girls who have not undergone FGM], making my relationship with my ex-husband difficult. I used to cry a lot and would go back home and tell my father about it, who used to say that I should blame my mother, for she was the one who refused for me to go through FGM as she is from another tribe which does not practise FGM."

**Participant in PEER research,
Tanzania**



PEER researchers in Tanzania

2010

VOICES OF CHILD BRIDES AND CHILD MOTHERS IN TANZANIA: A PEER REPORT ON CHILD MARRIAGE

FORWARD carried out its first participatory ethnographic evaluation research (PEER) in Africa, entitled *Voices of Child Brides and Child Mothers in Tanzania: A PEER Report on Child Marriage*.

The research was carried out with our long-term Tanzanian partners Children's Dignity Forum. 25 child brides, child widows and girls were trained to be researchers, helped to identify the research themes and developed the interview questions so that they could interview their friends. The research resulted in an incredible insight into the varied issues these girls face – in their own words. Following the research, a consultation was organised for 20 Ward Executive Officers to share the findings. Now the 25 young women have formed the "Tunaweza Girls Network", Tunaweza being a Swahili word for "we can", to raise awareness of incidents of child marriage in the district. It became a model for the way FORWARD works in African countries and is now the first of many PEER studies.

2010

FORWARD'S YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE A SHORT FILM

FORWARD made the thought-provoking short film *Think Again*, in partnership with the African Women's Welfare Group, to highlight the very real risk girls face in the UK.

The film was produced by fifteen young girls aged 11-23 in Haringey, north London and depicts a 12-year-old's struggle to challenge her mother's decision for her to undergo FGM. The young women went on to become an independent campaign group! The film was broadcast on the UK Community Channel and has received over 8,500 views on YouTube to date.

"Why do you have to lose an organ to be a woman? Why is it not shameful that 140 million women have suffered in silence, having undergone FGM?"

Think Again film, 2010

2010

WOMEN'S COFFEE MORNINGS BEGIN

Women living with FGM in the UK are mainly refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and tend to experience multiple discrimination. This leads to poor access to services and increased vulnerability.

To address some of these barriers, FORWARD started a new programme in London to provide a safe space for women to share their experiences, meet other women, and get connected to services. The monthly Coffee Morning Sessions have become popular through word-of-mouth and provide an opportunity for women to discuss, not only FGM, but a variety of issues affecting their lives in a positive and supportive environment.

VIVIANNE KAGWIRIA PETER, FORWARD COMMUNITY HEALTH TRAINEE

To start with, I would like to take this moment to thank FORWARD, and especially the coffee morning crew, for the great support you offer to women, including myself, facing all sorts of challenging problems.

I would like thank Rita who I first came into contact with through a phone call, just after I went to FORWARD's website. Rita was very welcoming, she listened to my problems and responded with concern, and explained to me that FORWARD holds coffee morning sessions, where women meet together and share all sorts of issues. She invited me to the sessions which not only lifted me up spiritually, but also emotionally. I was able to share a lot with the other women I met and this had a great impact on me.

I also learnt and benefitted in many ways from FORWARD. For example, the first aid training held in Paddington, sometime in 2010, if I can remember correctly! This was a great event where women were taught and felt we could enter ambulances and take over paramedics' jobs! I was thrilled with every bit of the event, especially when I thought of holding a British Red Cross Certificate for the first time. Big thank you to FORWARD! That was just one of the events I could name, but I can say you have brought great changes into many women's lives, especially those who live in darkness like myself. The ZERO Tolerance events taught me a lot, and I was able to challenge some of my friends and family who practice FGM privately. I have felt the support, the changes, and all the smiles I wore on my face were through the coffee morning women/team, because of the encouragement they gave, bus fares refunded to encourage us to attend. I thought I would now show my appreciation of the coffee morning group with a donation, as they continue to make a change in and renew people's lives, as you did to mine. I have to say that I will never forget FORWARD, thank you, and may you grow day by day.



2011 - 2014

AMINA JAMA, COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCATE, BRISTOL

When I was first invited to train as a Community Health Advocate on FGM I wondered whether I was doing the right thing. I have to say I thought, "What the hell are we really going to talk about?" However, the training was so well done. It gave me confidence to speak about FGM and to share with others what is wrong with FGM. We learnt a lot of new things and many things that we had misunderstood – like it was not part of our religion.



Within the first few weeks we were sharing very emotional and personal issues about our experience of FGM, but it was helping us to understand each other better and build trust. Knowing that we could trust and keep confidence in the group was very important. Five years later we are still close.

After the training we were really motivated. We decided to organise a 'Stop FGM' march and we went out on the streets one day. Everyone was looking at us. During the march I felt very happy and good. When I came home my four daughters celebrated with me saying, "You have done it mum, we are so proud of you".

After the march things got better and better. I was giving talks and workshops to women in my community. At first many elders in our community were resistant to even talk about it, but over the years I've seen that change. Elder women will talk about it now and many recognise that FGM is wrong, not part of the religion and harmful. I feel proud that we have changed their minds."

2012

HARMATTAN NOVEL ON CHILD MARRIAGE LAUNCHED

FORWARD reviewed this exceptional novel by author and visual artist Gavin Weston prior to its publication and collaborated on the launch of the book, set to coincide with the first ever International Day of the Girl Child.

Harmattan details the journey of a young girl in Niger, West Africa as she transitions from the innocence of childhood to the harsh realities of child marriage. Based on real life experiences and accounts from Weston's time living in Niger, *Harmattan* portrays the devastating effects that child marriage has on the lives of girls. We were delighted when Gavin Weston subsequently took up the role of ambassador for FORWARD.



2013

EAST AFRICA CONFERENCE ON CHILD MARRIAGE

FORWARD organised the first ever regional conference on child marriage in Africa, East Africa Conference on Child Marriage, attended by 11 countries.

The conference took place in Dar es Salaam and gave visibility and a sense of urgency to the problem of child marriage. We organised this conference with Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) and the Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network. The conference led to a call to action to develop a general comment on child marriage for African policy makers, which was submitted to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. In November 2015 the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child responded by presenting a draft General Comment on Child Marriage in Addis Ababa during its 26th Session.



The audience applaud the child brides, and FORWARD's PEER researchers, after they speak at the East Africa Conference

2014

THESE ARE OUR FRIENDS YOUTH POETRY BOOK LAUNCHED



The youth team held creative campaigning workshops in London, Bristol, Birmingham and Rochdale as part of FORWARD's Young People Speak Out programme, engaging young people to use spoken word and poetry to raise awareness about FGM.

The poems the young people produced from these workshops were deemed too good to go unpublished, so a collection of the poetry was produced entitled *These Are Our Friends*. The collection captures the nuances and complexities of the practice of FGM and the varying emotions and feelings that it evokes, inviting the readers to engage in a wider discussion about the links, rationale and complications of a practice that can at times be oversimplified in wider public debate and commentary. The collection has gone from strength to strength, spawning five unique works of art, a powerful short film, two spoken word events and inspiring a photography exhibition.

2014

END FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK

The END FGM European Network was established in 2014 following the conclusion of the END FGM European Campaign, with a mandate to coordinate a network of partners working at the European level to tackle FGM.

FORWARD is UK partner and supported the campaign to successfully transition into an independent network. FORWARD's Executive Director, Naana Otoo-Oyortey, was made the President of the network, which has 11 member organisations across 10 countries.



2014

SUBMISSION TO ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY HEARING

In 2014 the Home Affairs Committee began investigating the state of FGM in the UK in order to prepare a report on findings and recommendations to the Government.

At the development stage of the report, FORWARD submitted written evidence. Our main demand was for the Government to establish a robust national action plan to effectively tackle FGM in the UK, something for which FORWARD has been campaigning for many years. Subsequent to our written submission, we were invited by the Committee to give oral evidence. We were very pleased that their final report adopted FORWARD's main recommendation as the report theme. The report was entitled Female Genital Mutilation: The Case for a National Action Plan. It is one of the first times that a cross-party group has come together to make a unified call for developing a national action plan on FGM in the UK.

2014

PRIMARY SCHOOLS WORK

We have worked with schools in various capacities since 2010, and in 2014 we substantially expanded our work in this area to meet the demand from schools.

The Schools Programme offers a comprehensive and wide range of services. All of the services are delivered in a sensitive and age-appropriate way and are tailored to meet the needs of each school and target audience. Given the phenomenal success of our work with secondary school pupils, and in recognition of the fact that the age group most at risk of FGM are primary school girls, FORWARD began working on FGM with primary school pupils in 2014. By the end of 2015 we will have reached over 18,000 students and school staff!



"I spoke yesterday with my class about the sessions, and the amount of information between them that they came up with is excellent. I was so proud and impressed with them, and that is all down to what you taught them. They even taught me some things I wasn't aware of."

Teacher following a Student Awareness Session

2014 THE GIRL SUMMIT

The UK Government and UNICEF co-hosted an ambitious event in London which set out to mobilise local and international efforts to end FGM, child marriage and forced marriage in a generation.

FORWARD played a strategic role in the preparations of The Girl Summit event as well as the Youth for Change event that preceded the main summit. FORWARD's Youth Advocates were one of three youth groups that organised the Youth for Change event, and our Youth staff hosted a creative writing session following the success of our poetry book. On the main day, FORWARD attended with two of our project partners from Ethiopia and Tanzania and our staff were invited to speak on two panels including the important Question Time debate. A key outcome of this summit was a follow-up African Girl Summit by the African Union in Zambia in 2015, which aimed to give an additional push for African governments to tackle child marriage and other harmful practices affecting African women and girls.



"Encouraging young people to discuss, debate and question leaders on these issues is vitally important and why the Question Time debate was such a key element of the day. Thank you for offering your support to inspire the next generation to take action on these issues."

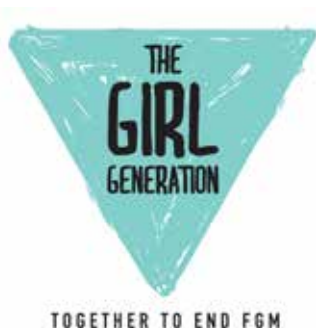
Letter from Rt Hon Justine Greening MP,
Secretary of State, 2014, following the Girl
Summit

2014

THE GIRL GENERATION

In 2014, DFID devoted £35 million towards action to tackle FGM globally through The Girl Generation, a global Africa-led movement which aims to end FGM in a generation.

The programme supports campaigns to break the cycle of FGM and end it globally by bringing inspirational stories of change to a global audience, stimulating media campaigns and supporting ambassadors of change. The movement was led by Efua Dorkenoo until her untimely death in October 2014. Faith Mwangi-Powell, another of FORWARD's former Directors, subsequently took over leadership of the project. FORWARD is an implementing partner in the movement and we work specifically to link African diaspora organisations in the UK to support Africa-led initiatives to end FGM in Africa.



"This communications programme exists to support the work of such tireless campaigners – to amplify their work, tell their stories and attract additional resources so that work to end FGM can be scaled up. We felt strongly that their perspectives had to form the heart of the movement."

Efua Dorkenoo, Director of The Girl Generation, 2014



2015

Our Anniversary Year

2015 FORWARD WINS A CHARITY AWARD

FORWARD was delighted to win a Charity Award for our work raising awareness about FGM in schools.

The award recognised our ongoing work in secondary schools and our pioneering work delivering sessions and producing resources to engage primary school children, the age group most at risk, on the subject of FGM in an age-appropriate way.



FORWARD's Director and Schools Programme Coordinator (centre) with our award presenters

2015 LAUNCH OF THE UK AFRICA DIASPORA WOMEN'S FORUM

The African Diaspora Women's Forum was launched in July by FORWARD and The Girl Generation.

The forum was devised as a space where African diaspora women and young people could reflect on the progress made in the continent and in the UK and share challenges faced in ensuring African women and girls are able to fully realise their human rights. The forum was attended by 80 women from various backgrounds who were very keen to be part of the network and to nurture African diaspora connections with a sustainable vision for collaboration. This forum will become a key part of FORWARD's future focus.



"For many years I have been talking to men in my community about the negative effects of FGM on girls and women. I noted that many men did not want to discuss this subject, or kept silent, deciding to only marry women who have undergone FGM thus perpetuating the continuation of the practice. Women have been championing this cause for decades with little or no support from men in the community. I am honoured to join FORWARD and this project to say that 'It's My Issue Too' and should be that of all fathers, husbands, brothers and uncles in communities where FGM continues."

Solomon Amare Zewolde, FORWARD Project Researcher for Men Speak Out

2015 MEN SPEAK OUT PROGRAMME

Men Speak Out is a European project engaging men to be part of actions to end FGM. FORWARD is the UK partner for the project, which operates in four countries, and aims to include men in the prevention of FGM in Europe.



Reasons for FGM include increasing men's sexual pleasure, controlling women's sexuality, maintaining virginity and ensuring marriageability of girls. Therefore FGM is inextricably connected to women's relationships with men meaning men's involvement is crucial to accelerate the abandonment of the practice in Europe, and by extension in the countries of origin. The project will involve research to increase knowledge on men's roles in the perpetuation of the practice, the dissemination of educational tools and the training of male peer educators to reach out to other men in their communities.

2015

LAUNCH OF THREE ANIMATED FILMS TO SPREAD AWARENESS OF FGM

FORWARD developed three short animated films in partnership with Animage Films, to reach a range of audiences and offer a visual way to invoke passion and action to end FGM.

The films include Needlecraft, a powerful film to demonstrate the severity of FGM and provoke action; My Body, My Rules, an adaptation of Needlecraft appropriate for teaching children about FGM and their rights over their bodies; and The True Story of Ghati and Rhobi, a campaign video which tells the story of two girls standing up to FGM in their communities, suitable for communities in Tanzania. This film is also available in Swahili. It is FORWARD's hope that these films will further add to the growing momentum of using social communication to help end FGM both in the UK and in Africa.



I have supported FORWARD since about 1990. It has always been led by African women who have avoided sensationalism and know how to bring about real change, working both in Africa and with diaspora communities. Some of the causes have become fashionable recently, but FORWARD has been there all along.

Michael, FORWARD volunteer and supporter

FORWARD in the future

FORWARD has come from humble beginnings, founded by a dynamic African woman, Efua, who passed away in 2014 leaving a huge legacy of hope and optimism for millions.

Today FGM is firmly on the global sustainable development goal agenda; child marriage has gained recognition on the global development agenda; and action on fistula is gaining new momentum. FORWARD is at a crossroads, setting out a new strategic plan to consolidate the gains of past years and chart new territory, working more collaboratively, incubating new

partnerships in Africa with a particular focus on girls left behind and new campaign action for child mothers. We will scale up our work with diaspora communities, providing a platform and space for capacity development, mentoring and engagement of key players and enabling community actors to become agents of change.



Thanks

MATRONS & PATRONS

Lord Kennet (1985-2009)
Alice Walker (1999-2009)
Skin (1999-2009)
Baroness Gould (2000-present)
Don Boyd (2011-present)
Karon Monaghan QC (2011-present)

TRUSTEES

Adwoa Kwateng-Kluvitse (1987-2000)
Anaclet Katambara (2005-2007)
Ahmed Bedri (2001-2006)
Angela Robson (1999-2007)
Anna Nsubuga (2005-2007)
Antoinette Sallah-Phillips (2001-2007)
Booan Temple (2011-2013)
Beatrice Mutali (2006-present)
Catherine Torazzo (2008-2009)
Catherine Willoughby (2011-2014)
Comfort Ottah (1990-2007)
Dr Deborah Hodes (2014-present)
Efua Dorkenoo (2003-2005)
Ekhlal Ahmed (2001-2005)
Faduma Hussein (2006-2014)
Fareda Banda (1999-2003)
Fiona Adamson (2001-2007)
Florence Bjalkander (2001-2003)
Gibril Faal (2009-present)
Hana Murgani (2006-2009)
Hanan Ibrahim (2005-2014)
Inderjeet Wilkhu (2001-2003)
Inna Ismail (2001-2007)

Irene Noel (2006-2011)
Jessica Farrand (2006-2014)
John Baguley (1998-2003)
Dr Lisa Smith (2006-present)
Liz Kawonza (2001-2003)
Margaret Nyuydzewira (2006-2010)
Mariama Conteh (2001-2006)
Marie Barrow (1998-2007)
Martin Badensham (1988-2000)
Mike Mensah (1985-1986)
Monica Mhoja (2006-2011)
Muna Dol (2014-present)
Naana Otoo-Oyortey (1998-2007)
Nagla Naguib (2009-2011)
Naomi Reid (2006-2010)
Nawa El Khalifa (2006-2009)
Nisan Zerai Kesete (2014-2015)
Sam Matthews (2014-present)
Scovia Cherotich (2003-2007)
Dr Sohler Elneil (2011-present)
Yaw Addo (2003-2009)
Dr Yunes Teinaz (2011-present)
Zeinab Nurr (2011-2006)

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Amnesty International Ireland
Barrow Cadbury Trust
BBC Children in Need
Big Lottery
Bristol City Council
Bromley Trust
Camelot Foundation
Catapult
Charities Aid Foundation
Comic Relief
Community Fund
Community Technology Project
Council for Ethnic and Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations
Department of Health
Department for International Development
Equality and Human Rights Commission
European Commission Daphne
European Commission Europe Aid
Home Office- Crime Innovation Fund
Human Dignity Foundation
Islington Victim Support
Jo Bryant Trust
John Lyon's Charity
Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Health Authority

King's Fund
Lankelly Chase Foundation
Lloyds TSB
London Councils
Matrix Chambers
Monica Rabagliati
Network for Social Change
Rosa
Rotary Club of Hitchin
The Alan and Babette Sainsbury Charitable Fund
The Body Shop Foundation
The City Bridge Trust
The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
The Sigrid Rausing Trust
The Tula Trust
The Women's Resource Centre (WRC)
The Women's Health and Equality Consortium (WHEC)
Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust
Trust for London (City Parochial Foundation)
UNISON
V-Day - Until the Violence Stops
Westminster Primary Care Trust
Womankind
Women's National Commission

FORWARD would like to take this opportunity to say a BIG thank you to everyone who has donated, fundraised, volunteered, attended events or supported our work in any capacity over the past 30 years! We are deeply grateful for all of your support for FORWARD's mission and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Get Involved



There are several ways you can support FORWARD to continue our work to change lives and achieve a safer and healthier future for African girls and women. Here are just a few ways that you can get involved:

- **Subscribe to our quarterly newsletter**
- **Raise awareness in your local area and within your community**
- **Become a regular supporter with monthly donations**
- **Do an activity or organise an event to fundraise for FORWARD**
- **Make a donation to our work**
- **Join our Young People Speak Out programme for training, to gain skills in mentoring, advocacy and more. Please contact our Youth Programme for more information: youth@forwarduk.org.uk.**

Please go to www.forwarduk.org.uk for more information or contact us at forward@forwarduk.org.uk

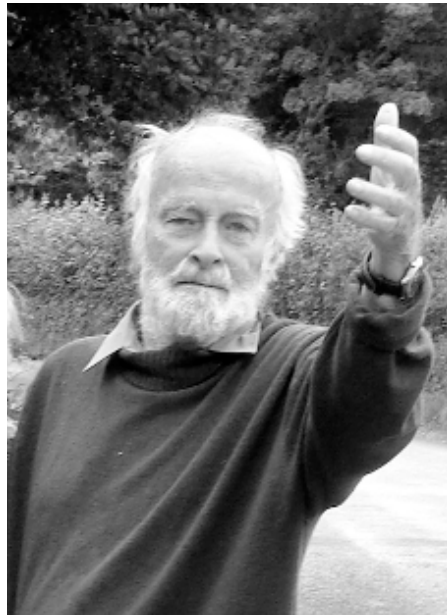
It's never been easier to support FORWARD!
Text FWRD30 £5 to 70070 to give today

In Memoriam

FORWARD will forever be thankful for the passion and commitment of the following people whose contributions towards our work have helped us reach where we are today. Efua Dorkenoo, Lord Kennet and Sheila Kitzinger were all early champions of African girls and women's rights and FORWARD will continue our campaigns in memory of them all.



Efua Dorkenoo OBE
1949 – 2014
FORWARD Founder



Lord Kennet
1923– 2009
FORWARD Patron



Sheila Kitzinger
1929–2015
Early FORWARD Trustee

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Facebook: FORWARDUK and
Young People Speak Out Against FGM_FORWARD UK

FORWARD
Safeguarding rights & dignity

FORWARD is a UK registered charity. Charity Registration number: 292403
Company Number: 01921508

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