



#MY VOICE MATTERS

Pan European Knowledge Exchange
on Promising Practices for Engaging
Communities to end FGM & VAWG

29TH NOVEMBER 2019, 9.30-16.00

Conference Venue: Greencoat Place, 24 Greencoat Place,
London, SW1P 1RD



Co-funded by the
Rights, Equality &
Citizenship Programme
of the European Union

OVERVIEW

Engagement of key communities is crucial to effectively ending female genital mutilation (FGM) and all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). Social norms and traditions that fuel VAWG can only be effectively tackled with support from communities themselves. A grassroots peer-to-peer approach has greater impact in the long-term abandonment of VAWG. Community engagement and preventative action should form part of the package on protection, provisioning and prosecution policy approaches.

Ending violence against women and girls and harmful practices such as FGM, forced and child marriage in the UK is critical to attaining the Sustainable Development Goal on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. These human rights violations affect many communities living in UK and Europe and require community voices to effectively end them. The European Union and the UK government are committed to actions to end these violations.

In 2015, the UK Serious Crimes Act of 2015, introduced stricter legislation aimed at safeguarding and protecting girls from FGM and new measures for tackling forced marriage. This included mandatory reporting duties for FGM, protection orders, as well as making failure to protect daughters from FGM a criminal offence. These actions require an active role of key communities.

Conference Aims: The conference aims to provide a platform for exchange of promising practices on tackling FGM and VAWG and will enable key professionals and stakeholders to improve their understanding of the critical role of community engagement and representation in shifting attitudes, how to reach communities and engage young people on activism, as well as building bridges with policy makers and communities. This event targets key statutory professionals and frontline workers including local and national government authorities, and other key stakeholders.



About FORWARD and the END FGM European Network

FORWARD is an African women led organisation working to end VAWG, from FGM to child marriage and domestic violence, tackling discrimination and abuse. The **End FGM European Network** is a European umbrella network of 27 organisations working to ensure sustainable European action to end FGM.

Why should you attend this event?

- Understand effective strategies for engaging communities to tackle FGM and VAWG
- Explore promising approaches for building bridges between statutory professionals and affected communities
- Understand the role of developing leadership and intergenerational working
- Meet community champions and youth leaders and hear about their social action projects
- Network with key stakeholders and European counterparts working on FGM & VAWG
- Access new resources and tools for engaging communities

Who should attend this event?

The event is tailored for statutory professionals, Local Government Authorities, voluntary organisations, young women, community representatives, and organisations working on FGM from the UK and Europe.

Register to attend at Eventbrite:
engagingcommunitiesonfgm.eventbrite.co.uk

**Deadline for registration is
Monday 25th November 2019**

For more information contact us:
forward@forwarduk.org.uk or
Tel: 020 8960 4000

CONFERENCE DETAILS:

DATE 29th November 2019, 9.30-16.00

VENUE Greencoat Place,
24 Greencoat Place,
London SW1P 1RD



PROGRAMME

- 9.30** Registration
- 10.00** Chair's welcome and introductions
- 10.30** **Panel Session 1:** Listening to voices of affected communities
- Young women's activism in the UK
 - European young women's activism
 - Voices of community women affected by FGM - disrupting the policy narrative
- 11.30** Morning refreshments
- 12.00** **Session 2:** Building effective partnerships between policy makers and communities - what works?
- Building bridges with different sectors
 - Intergenerational partnerships through mentoring
 - Building partnerships with policy makers and statutory professionals
- 13.00** Networking lunch
- 14.00** **Session 3:** Exchange of promising practices
- Working with local authorities and statutory agencies
 - Exploring promising community engagement strategies
 - Working with the legal sector
 - Partnership with schools and education sector
- 15.00** **Session 4:** Strengthening voices of the movement to end FGM and VAWG Workshops
- Engaging migrant communities to tackle FGM and VAWG
 - Working with boys and men
 - Supporting campaigners and activists to thrive and be effective
- 16.00** Reflections and chair's summary

