



#MY VOICE MATTERS CONFERENCE

Strengthening Young Women's Leadership to end FGM & VAWG

30TH NOVEMBER 2019, 9.30-16.30

Venue: Arlington Conference Centre, 220 Arlington Road,
Camden, London NW1 7HE



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

OVERVIEW

Young women are essential in the fight against female genital mutilation (FGM) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Europe. Through FORWARD's Youth programme and TuWezeshe Young Women's Leadership Fellowship we recognise the critical need to equip young women from black and minority ethnic communities with the skills to be effective leaders and advocates in their communities. We also know that we are stronger when we work together, which is why we continue to provide opportunities, like this conference, for young women to network and create positive networks to strengthen their social activism.

Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, it interrupts our education, our physical, mental and emotional health and also affects our job opportunities and our relationships both with ourselves and others. VAWG happens across communities, countries and continents.

But change is coming and we should all be part of this change.

In 2015 the UK government introduced the Serious Crimes Act which provides stricter legislation around safeguarding and protecting girls at risk of FGM and forced marriage. In the wake of #MeToo, sexual harassment in higher education and the workplace, intimate partner violence, revenge porn and many other issues affecting young women's safety are coming under greater scrutiny – at last. So we need to be part of this move.

This conference provides an opportunity to network with professionals and activists from the UK and across Europe who are working to protect women and girls rights, to learn from their approaches, come up with new strategies and develop a new sisterhood of solidarity. This conference is especially aimed at young women activists and those aiming to become activists.



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?

Join us at this event if...

- You are passionate about women and girl's rights and want to learn more about advocating, campaigning and/or raising awareness against VAWG and FGM
- You are interested in and want to explore new approaches to inter-generational activism and collaboration in tackling VAWG and FGM
- You are interested in widening your network of young women leaders and activists
- You want to learn new skills around advocacy and campaigning especially regarding digital and social media

Register to attend on Eventbrite:
myvoicemattersyouthconference.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 30th November 2019, 9.30-16.30

VENUE Arlington Conference Centre,
220 Arlington Road, Camden,
London NW1 7HE



PROGRAMME

- 9.30** Registration
- 10.00** Chair's welcome remarks and overview
- 10.30** **Session 1:** Introductions and getting to know ourselves
- 11.30** Morning refreshments
- 12.00** **Session 2:** Sharing our leadership journey
- Inter-generational panel discussions
- 13.00** Networking lunch
- 14.00** **Session 3:** Developing leadership and feminist skills for tackling FGM and VAWG. Workshops on:
- Young women's leadership
 - Digital media and campaigning
 - Building resilience and sisterhood spaces
- 15.00** **Session 4:** Open Space Methodology
- Social activism
 - Power and control
 - Sexuality and culture
 - Gender violence, climate change and race
- 16.00** Reflections and chair's summary
- 16.30** Networking and close of session

