

**Yes!** I want to support Equality Now's work to end FGM and other human rights violations against women and girls around the world.

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 1 \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS 2 \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Join the Women's Action Network**

Send my Actions in the following language(s):

- English  French  Spanish  Arabic

Send my Actions by:

- Email  Post  Both

**Subscribe to *Awaken***

I would like a free email subscription.

Enclosed is my contribution of US\$/£ \_\_\_\_\_  
(minimum \$50/£30) to help subsidize the distribution of *Awaken* to community activists.  
(Fill payment details in 'Donate' below)

**Donate**

Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of: \$/£ \_\_\_\_\_

- Check or money order, payable to: **Equality Now**  
 Credit card:  Visa  Mastercard  
 Amex  Discover

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE \_\_\_\_\_

CARDHOLDER'S NAME (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: **Equality Now**, P.O. Box 20646, Columbus Circle Station, New York, NY 10023

Or join and contribute online at [www.equalitynow.org](http://www.equalitynow.org)

## The Work of FGM Fund Grantee-Partners

The FGM Fund provides financial, technical and advocacy support for grassroots organizations raising awareness in their communities about the health and human rights implications of FGM and working for legal protection from the practice.

Activities of FGM Fund grantee-partners include:

- creating alternative rites of passage and facilitating reconciliation with parents for girls who run away from FGM
- reaching out to students through peer educator trainings, school-based anti-FGM clubs, and "vacation without FGM" programs
- sensitizing parents, children, lawyers, religious leaders, circumcisers, health care workers, policymakers and law enforcement
- working with fathers' clubs and men's groups to build awareness and opposition to FGM
- developing alternative income-generating training and programs for circumcisers
- holding workshops on women's and children's rights and disseminating medical information about the harmful effects of FGM
- using radio, community media and theatre to disseminate information about FGM and publicize advocacy efforts to end the practice
- working with parliamentarians to ensure the enactment of laws prohibiting FGM
- monitoring and advocating for the enactment and implementation of anti-FGM laws

*Equality Now is a leading international advocacy organization working for the human rights of women and girls. Dedicated to achieving civil, political, economic and social justice, we mobilize individuals and the global community to end violence and discrimination against women and girls.*

LONDON OFFICE  
P.O. Box 48822  
London  
WC2N 6ZW  
UK

NAIROBI OFFICE  
P.O. Box 2018  
00202  
Nairobi  
KENYA

NEW YORK OFFICE  
P.O. Box 20646  
Columbus Circle Station  
New York, NY 10023  
USA

online at [www.equalitynow.org](http://www.equalitynow.org)



## EQUALITY NOW Fund for Grassroots Activism to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)





Nairobi Office Director Faiza Jama Mohamed speaks about FGM with women in Djibouti.

## What is FGM?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a 5,000-year-old harmful practice performed across Africa, and in some parts of Asia and the Middle East. FGM describes one of several procedures: the partial or total removal of the clitoris (clitoridectomy); the removal of the entire clitoris and the cutting of the labia minora (excision); or—in its most extreme form—the removal of all external genitalia and stitching together of the two sides of the vulva leaving only a small vaginal opening (infibulation). Generally performed without anesthesia, traditional circumcisers (predominantly women), midwives and medical personnel, including physicians, are known to perform FGM.

FGM can have devastating consequences, including:

- chronic infection
- psychological trauma
- severe pain during urination, menstruation, sexual intercourse and childbirth
- potential death from bleeding or infection

Used in an effort to control women's sexuality, FGM is an extreme form of the many harmful

traditional practices imposed by society to deny women equality. It is defended by both men and women as a social prerequisite to marriage and acceptance of girls into the community. Laws can have an impact on reducing the prevalence of FGM, particularly in countries where they are publicized and enforced. However, laws are not enough to stop this deeply rooted cultural tradition: education, community outreach and political will must also be in place to end FGM.

**130 to 140 million women and girls have been subjected to FGM, a human rights violation, whose practice is a breach of a number of international conventions.**

**Every year, two million girls—or 6,000 per day—are at risk of FGM.**

*(data from World Health Organization)*

## Why do we need the FGM Fund?

Equality Now established the Fund for Grassroots Activism to End FGM (FGM Fund) in 2000 because we believe that FGM will not be eradicated without grassroots organizations. However, these local groups are often underfunded, isolated and face the overwhelming challenge of addressing the need for urgent intervention. Groups on the ground have the unique ability to change social and cultural norms within their communities and society. Twenty years ago, conversations about the practice were taboo, but now due to the advocacy, outreach and education efforts of these activists, changes in national laws, policies and attitudes to protect girls from FGM are emerging.

Through the FGM Fund, Equality Now ensures that grantee-partners can maximize their effectiveness and the collective impact of their work to end FGM by aiding with monitoring, evaluation and implementation of activities, and facilitating group support and dialogue, including convening an annual FGM Fund meeting.

## Awaken

Equality Now publishes the biannual newsletter *Awaken*, a resource for communities and activists, including FGM Fund grantee-partners, to discuss current issues related to FGM. *Awaken* is printed in English, French and Arabic to facilitate access to the information and discussion in communities where FGM is practiced. The publication is free with an online subscription. To subscribe, please fill out the form on the other side of this page.

## FGM Fund Grantee-Partners

To date the FGM Fund has supported 36 organizations in 19 countries with current efforts in: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Somaliland, Sudan and Tanzania.

