

Current situation and trends of female genital mutilation in Greece



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

International and European conventions

Greece has ratified various international conventions concerning FGM, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR), and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFREU). Greece has signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 216).

Criminal law

In Greece, cases related to FGM can be criminally prosecuted through Articles 338, 339 and 333 of the Penal Code, relating respectively to the criminal offences of bodily injury, danger to bodily harm and bodily harm against a minor. The principle of non-retroactivity is not applicable and, as such, FGM is non-punishable when committed outside the country.

Child protection law

The general legislative framework related to Child Protection applies to cases of FGM as a form of violation of child's human rights or child abuse. Law 3675/2007 incorporates the Optional Protocol for the Protection of the Rights of the Child in Relation to Child Trafficking, Child prostitution and the selling of children's organs. It is, however, important to note that this law provides for the prohibition of corporal violence against children which makes it applicable to FGM.

Asylum law

Article 11 of Asylum Law 3907/2011 can be used to grant refugee status to women or girls who have undergone FGM or who are in danger of being subjected to FGM. Article 18 deals with vulnerable persons, including women and girls who have undergone FGM or are in danger of being subjected to FGM, and Articles 26 and 25 refer to child asylum seekers.

Professional secrecy law

In Greece, general law with regard to professional secrecy and disclosure, in particular Article 374 of the Penal Code and Articles 17, 91A, 932 of the Civil Code may be applied to report cases of performed or planned FGM. It is violated

About the study

In order to contribute to identifying and filling the gaps in prevalence data collection and support the development of strategies for combating female genital mutilation (FGM), the European Institute for Gender Equality has commissioned the Study to map the current situation and trends of female genital mutilation in 27 EU Member States and Croatia. The study was launched at the request of Valérie Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission. It was conducted by the International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) of the Ghent University and Yellow Window Management Consultants in division of I.A.D.C.

The desk research in the 27 EU Member States and Croatia and the in-depth research in one EU Member State brings about the first collection of information and data, legal and policy framework, actors, tools and methods in the area of FGM in the EU. The different national approaches to tackle FGM in the EU were analysed and compared in order to identify practices with potential to prevent, protect, prosecute, provide services, partnership and prevalence.

The data provided in this publication were collected through desk research conducted between December 2011 and April 2012. More information and references about the study are available at eige.europa.eu.

Downloads



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EN (PDF, 12.66 MB)



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