

Female genital mutilation: How many girls are at risk in Cyprus?



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Cyprus
It is estimated that **1.3% to 1.7% of girls are at risk** of female genital mutilation (FGM, or taifas) in Cyprus (out of a total population of 750 girls aged 0-18 originating from countries where female genital mutilation is practiced).

Girls who are at risk of female genital mutilation in Cyprus originate mostly from Egypt, Turkey, and West Africa.

These findings are from the latest research conducted by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) on female genital mutilation in the EU(1).

Female genital mutilation is a serious form of gender-based violence, leaving girls physical and psychological scars on their bodies and minds around the world. It is a serious form of subordination of women and girls and it stands in gross contradiction to the principles of gender equality.

According to the World Health Organization, female genital mutilation refers to 'all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons'(2).

About the study and the European Institute for Gender Equality

The study 'Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union – Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Cyprus and Malta' was conducted in 2017-2018. It supports the EU institutions and EU Member States in providing more accurate information on female genital mutilation and its risks among girls in the European Union.

EIGE is the EU knowledge centre for gender equality. It supports public debates and all relevant activities to foster efforts to make equality between women and men a reality for all EU citizens, by providing them with specific expertise and comparable and reliable data on gender equality in the EU.

More information is available at www.eige.europa.eu

Female genital mutilation in the context of migration

Migration from FGM-prone countries is becoming phenomenally more and more due to the number of war-affected children, displaced persons and refugees. Such a number on the inflow and outflow of migrants is considerable.

Gender-sensitive asylum procedures are in place in the search for genuine and necessary for women. They are different from other categories, there is a history of violence, and, given particular type of a medical condition, international protection can be granted on the basis of female genital mutilation (in general) (there is no indication in law to require for systematic identification of automatic asylum seekers). These situations are important to persons in the asylum system, considering work to find more resources and therefore ensuring the role of female genital mutilation.

1. The information that is published in this infographic is a summary of the results of the study 'Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union – Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Cyprus and Malta' conducted in 2017-2018. For more information on the study, please visit www.eige.europa.eu.

2. World Health Organization, 'Female genital mutilation', <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation>.

This factsheet presents the results of the study 'Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union – Belgium, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus and Malta' for Cyprus.

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