

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



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Cyprus
It is estimated that **1.2% to 1.7% of girls are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM)** in Cyprus, out of a total population of 756,000 girls aged 15-18 originating from countries where female genital mutilation is practiced.

FGM refers to all of female genital procedures in Cyprus (including clitoridectomy, partial or total clitoridectomy, and clitoridectomy).

These findings are from the latest survey conducted by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) on female genital mutilation in the EU(27).

Female genital mutilation is a serious form of gender-based violence, involving deep physical and psychological scars on the basis of which, among other things, it is a system built on subordination of women and girls and it stands in gross contradiction to the principle 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" (3).

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, Greece, France, 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 policymakers and all relevant stakeholders in their 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-practising countries to non-practising ones can increase the number of unaccompanied children from non-practising countries. Such numbers are the primary beneficiaries of international legislation.

Gender-sensitive asylum procedures are in place to the extent that women are interviewed by women. They are allowed their own advisors. There is a choice of interviewers, and, upon presentation of a medical certificate, a medical professional can be present on the basis of female genital mutilation. In general, there is no mechanism in place to ensure the systematic identification of unaccompanied asylum-seekers. These studies focus on inquiries on persons at the asylum system, encouraging visits to their home countries and therefore reducing the risk of 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.

The study 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.

Downloads

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Female genital mutilation: How many girls are at risk in Cyprus?
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Ακρωτηριασμός των γυναικείων γεννητικών οργάνων: Πόσα κορίτσια κινδυνεύουν στην Κύπρο;
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