

Current situation and trends of female genital mutilation in Latvia



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

International and European conventions

Latvia 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 (2010/C 61/01).

Criminal law

In Latvia, general criminal offences which could be applied to cases of FGM are intentional bodily injury which is dangerous to life or has caused loss of any organs or functions of organs (Section 120), intentional bodily injury which has resulted in a continued health disorder (Section 126), illegal removal of tissue or organs from a living or deceased human being (Section 136), oral or violent treatment of a minor, if physical or mental suffering has been inflicted upon the minor and if such has been inflicted by persons upon whom the victim is financially or otherwise dependent (Section 174). The principle of extraterritoriality is applicable, making FGM punishable even if it is committed outside the country.

Child protection law

General child protection law, integrated in the Protection of the Rights of the Child Law, could be applied in cases of FGM. In particular, the following sections are applicable: Objectives of Protection of the Rights of the Child (Section 4); Protection of the Child from Illegal Activities (Section 5); and Child Victims of Violence or Other Illegal Acts (Section 10). In case of violation of the law, protective measures include removing the child from the family and suspension of parental custody.

Asylum law

The Asylum Law in Latvia, specifically Section 27 concerning grounds of protection, can be applied in cases of FGM.

Professional secrecy law

General laws with regard to professional secrecy and disclosure may be applied to report cases of performed or planned FGM. The Medical Treatment Law states that medical institutions are obliged to report to the police any case in which a person has suffered from violence and/or if the rights of a child have been violated. No disciplinary sanctions are foreseen in case of non-reporting. The Regulation

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 Inés de la Madariaga, Vice-President of the European Commission. It was conducted by the International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) of the Queen University and fellow Winflow Management Consultants (a division of I.A.D.C.).

The desk research in the 27 EU Member States and Croatia and the in-depth research in nine EU Member States 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 in prevention, protection, prosecution, provision of services, partnership and prevalence.

The data provided in the 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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Pašreizeja situacija attiecībā uz sievietu dzimumorgānu apgraizīšanu Latvijā

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