


Current situation and trends of female genital mutilation in Lithuania



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

International and European conventions

Lithuania 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).

Criminal law

In Lithuania, general criminal law, in particular Article 133 of the Penal Code, consisting of the crime of grievous bodily injury could be applied in the context of FGM. The principle of retroactivity is applicable, making FGM punishable even if it is committed outside the country.

Child protection law

General child protection laws could be applied in cases of FGM, in particular, Articles 7 and 10 from the Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child refer to evidence against a child as a spouse and can result in the removal of the children from the family and suspension of parental custody in cases where there is a real threat to the child's health or life.

Asylum law

A special decision by the Migration Department at the Ministry of the Interior provides that girls (age range not specified) who are at real risk of FGM upon return to their country of origin can apply for asylum.

Professional secrecy law

General laws on professional secrecy and disclosure may be applied to report cases of performed or planned FGM. According to Article 6, section 4, of the Law on the Rights of Patients and Compensation for the Damage to their Health, health care institutions must immediately notify the law enforcement institutions of injured patients whose injury may have been the result of a criminal act.

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 Valdis Reuberg, Vice-President of the European Commission. It was conducted by the International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) of the Ghent University and Willow 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 four 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 to prevent, protect, prosecute, provide of services, partnership and prevalence.

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

Downloads



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EN (PDF, 12.63 MB)



Esama padėtis moterų lyties organų žalojimo srityje Lietuvoje

LT (PDF, 12.64 MB)

Metadata

COUNTRY: Lithuania

AREAS: Gender-based violence

AUTHOR: EIGE

PUBLISHER: Publications Office of the EU

ISBN: EN 978-92-9218-244-1; LT 978-92-9218-068-3

DOI: EN 10.2839/76685; LT 10.2839/69399