

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



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It is estimated that **29% to 57% of girls are at risk** of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Malta, out of a total population of 490 girls aged 15 or younger from countries where female genital mutilation is practised.

Over 90% of female genital mutilation in Malta mostly originates from Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Mauritania, Sierra Leone.

These findings are from the latest research conducted by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) on female genital mutilation in the EU (5).

**Female genital mutilation** is a serious form of gender-based violence, having severe physical and psychological scars on the lives of victims around the world. It is a violent form of subordination of women and girls and it stands in gross contradiction to the principles of gender equality.

According to the World Health Organisation, 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 (1).

**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 interested stakeholders in their efforts to create equality between women and men in order to fulfil the SDG targets. Doing so will contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable world, with equal opportunities and gender equality in the EU.

More information is available at [www.eige.europa.eu](http://www.eige.europa.eu)

Demographics of girls at risk in Malta and the flight of young women seeking asylum in EU as part of this research in Malta, a large number of the female migrant population originate from countries of origin with a high prevalence of FGM and a high fertility rate, factors that contribute to a high risk of female genital mutilation.

**How is female genital mutilation tackled in Malta?**

Female genital mutilation has been a crime in Malta since 2014, pursuant to Article 212(2) of the Maltese Criminal Code. The principle of subsidiarity is also applied, criminalising female genital mutilation where committed abroad. The legislation was strengthened by the implementation of the **Stanford Convention** (1) on Malta's law in April 2018.

1. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is the international treaty on women's rights. It is the only human rights treaty that has been ratified by all 193 UN member states. It is the cornerstone of international women's rights law. The Convention is the only international instrument that has been ratified by all 193 UN member states. It is the cornerstone of international women's rights law. The Convention is the only international instrument that has been ratified by all 193 UN member states. It is the cornerstone of international women's rights law.

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 Malta.

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 Malta?](#)  
 EN (PDF, 387.29 KB)
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[Il-mutilazzjoni ġenitali femminili Kemm hemm bniet f'Malta li jinsabu f'riskju](#)  
 MT (PDF, 581.26 KB)

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