

UNICEF Conference Female Genital Mutilation in Europe

Assessment of the current
Situation and Scope of Action
in the fields of Medicine,
Politics, Law and Society



Monday, March 7, 2005

Theaterhaus Gessnerallee, Zurich



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S w i t z e r l a n d

Programme

- 08.30 Opening of doors
- 09.15 **Opening**
Elsbeth Müller, Executive Director UNICEF Switzerland, Zurich
- 09.30 **Welcome address**
Thomas Zeltner, Director of Swiss Federal Office for Public Health (SFOPH), Berne
- 09.45 **Violence and Female Genital Mutilation**
Khady Koita, President of European Network for the Eradication of FGM, Brussels
- 10.15 **Female Genital Mutilation in the context of Migration**
Denise Glasscock, Gender Officer, International Organisation for Migration, Geneva
- 10.45 **Coffee break**
- 11.15 **Cultural Rights as a Resource in the Battle against the Violation of Human Rights: The Case of Mauritania**
Patrice Meyer-Bisch, Institut Interdisciplinaire d'Ethique et des Droits de l'Homme, University Fribourg
Abdoulaye Sow, Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines, University Nouakchott, Mauritania
- 12.00 **Issues in Health Care Services and the Implementation of the Law with regard to Female Genital Mutilation in Europe**
Els Leye, International Centre for Reproductive Health, University Gent
- 12.30 **Lunch**
- 14.00 **Panel discussions (parallel)**
- 15.45 **Coffee break**
- 16.15 **Round table: Scope of Action and Strategies to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation**
Gianfranco Dell'Alba, Secretary General No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) and former Member of the EU Parliament, Brussels
Maria Gabriella De Vita, Head Gender and Harmful Traditional Practices, UNICEF, New York
Tobe Levin, President of FORWARD-Germany, Frankfurt am Main
Berhane Ras-Work, President of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC), Geneva
- 17.00 **Closing remarks**
- 17.15 **Closing of conference**
Moderator: **Marta Santos Pais**,
Director UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence

Panel discussions (14.00 bis 15.45)

Panel 1: Medical issues (simultaneous interpretation)

African Research on Complications resulting from Female Genital Mutilation /Cutting

Heli Bathija, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO, Geneva

Health Care in Europe for Women with Genital Mutilation

Els Leye, International Centre for Reproductive Health, University Gent

Female Genital Mutilation: Medical Guidelines for Swiss Health workers

Clara Thierfelder, gynaecologist, St. Claraspital, Basel

Female Genital Mutilation in Switzerland: Research among Swiss Midwives, Gynaecologists, Paediatricians and Social Services

Matthias Egger, Director Institut für Sozial- und Präventivmedizin, University Berne

Panel 2: Legal issues (English)

Legislation in Europe regarding Female Genital Mutilation and the Implementation of the Law in Belgium, France, Spain, Sweden and the UK

Jessika Deblonde, International Centre for Reproductive Health, University Gent

The Role of the Law in ending Female Genital Mutilation /Cutting

Michael Miller, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, UNICEF, Florence

Legal position on Female Genital Mutilation in Switzerland

Stefan Trechsel, former President of the European Commission on Human Rights and former Professor for Criminal Law and Law of Criminal Procedure, University Zurich

Panel 3: Information and Educational work in Migrant Societies
(English and French)

Information campaigns by the IAC

Berhane Ras-Work, President of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC), Geneva

Female Genital Mutilation and Advice

Tobe Levin, President of FORWARD-Germany, Frankfurt am Main

The Example Mauritania: counter arguments as an Educational Strategy

Abdoulaye Sow, Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines, University Nouakchott, Mauritania

Panel 4: Strategies and Campaigns against Female Genital Mutilation
(English)

The «Stop-FGM!»-Campaign

Gianfranco Dell'Alba, Secretary General No Peace without Justice (NPWJ) and former member of the EU Parliament, Brussels

The European Network against Female Genital Mutilation,

Khady Koita, President of European Network for the Eradication of FGM, Brussels

Towards a UNICEF-strategy to abandon Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting within the course of one Generation,

Maria Gabriella De Vita, UNICEF, Head Gender and Harmful Traditional Practices, New York

UNICEF Conference

Female Genital Mutilation in Europe

Assessment of the current situation and scope of action in the fields of medicine, politics, law and society

March 7, 2005

More than 130 million girls and women are mutilated, and every 15 seconds a little girl suffers the same ordeal. The gruesome practice has lifelong effects on the victim's health. UNICEF is committed to breaking this old tradition and has set itself the ambitious goal to overcome female genital mutilation within the next ten years.

Female genital mutilation demands immediate action not only in Africa, but also across Europe. As a result of emigration from countries practicing female genital mutilation, immigration countries are increasingly confronted with this inhuman practice. How do European countries respond to female genital mutilation? What approaches are being taken to solve the problem? How can human rights be implemented against the obstacle of tradition? These and other key questions will be addressed by the UNICEF-Conference on female genital mutilation in Europe.

International experts in the fields of medicine, law and politics, and representatives of international organisations will explain their work in lectures and panel discussions, exchange best practices, and present strategies.

The Conference is addressed to professionals from Switzerland and abroad who are confronted with the issue of female genital mutilation, representatives from international organisations and non-governmental organisations, politicians and administrators, as well as the interested public.

Venue

Theaterhaus Gessnerallee
Gessnerallee 8
CH-8001 Zurich

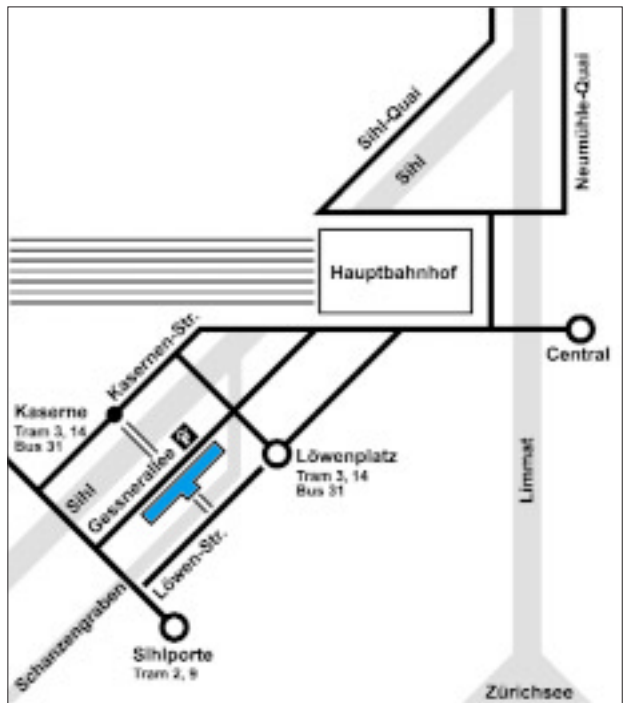
How to reach the venue

Tram 3 and 14, Bus 31
Stop: Kaserne

Tram 2 and 9
Stop: Sihlstrasse

Parking

Parking Gessnerallee,
CHF 4.- per 1 hour
www.parkhausgessnerallee.ch



Registration

UNICEF Switzerland
Baumackerstrasse 24, CH-8050 Zürich
z.Hd. Colette Marti
Fax: +41 (0)44 317 22 77
Tel: +41 (0)44 317 22 66
E-Mail: c.marti@unicef.ch
Registration via Internet: www.unicef.ch

Closing date

Monday 21, February 2005
The invoice and pay slip will be sent
upon registration.

Costs

CHF 190.- per person, participation
costs, documentation, lunch and snacks
are included in this price.

Conference languages

German, French and English, key note
speaker presentations and discussions
of panel 1 will be translated
simultaneously.

The support of the Swiss Agency for
Development and Cooperation (SDC),
the Swiss Federal Office for Public
Health (SFOPH) and the UNICEF
Innocenti Research Centre, Florence,
made the implementation of this
conference possible.