



# AISHA\* SINGAPORE

FGM/C is documented among the Malay community in Singapore, where it is known as 'sunat'. The Malay community makes up 15% of the total population in Singapore. There are no prevalence estimates available.

\*Name has been changed.

“ I was told as a child that every girl had to go through it. There is basically nobody that you know who hasn't gone through it. I believed everything my mother said.

As a nurse, I cleaned the vagina of women of different ethnicities. Of course, I noticed the difference. They had the hood and the two labia folds, and I did not.

At that time, as a Malay Muslim, I believed that my vagina was “cleaner” than those who were not circumcised. I felt I belonged to a much “higher status” because I was “cut”.

I realized my sexual desire plummeted and I wasn't really interested in sex much longer.

I had my daughter at home, assisted by my husband. The natural delivery left a stinging burning sensation on my clitoris region. I thought it would go away, but it lasted much longer than I expected.

I deeply pondered: Why am I still feeling this? Why does it still feel sore? Is it because of the FGC that my mother made sure I underwent when I was a baby?

My mother kept insisting that I took my daughter to the clinic for “sunat”. She said it would be “over before you know it.” My husband is Muslim, but he's not Malay. My husband refused to have it done to our daughter. He said women in his country did not have it done.

I'm sad it was done to me. I will never let it happen to my offspring.

When we educate women, we educate the entire nation. Women have to choose wisely what is right and wrong. Don't succumb to social pressure – just because everyone is doing it, doesn't make it right. ”



A longer version of this story was originally published on [Sahiyo's blog](#).

For Aisha's\* full story head to [equalitynow.org/Aisha](https://equalitynow.org/Aisha)

**FGM/C IS GLOBAL**  
but so is the  
movement to end it