



RAYEHE IRAN

Rayehe Mozafarian set up Stop FGM Iran, after writing her thesis on FGM in Iran in 2014, which was published as a book titled 'Razor and Tradition'.

“ I have started a campaign to end FGM in Iran. I have a website where I write openly about these issues and I have started to collect fatwas. When people read my research on FGM, they were shocked. Many said that they didn't know FGM was happening in Iran.

In our workshops with women, we start with teaching about the genitals and what the function of each part is and the importance of having all these parts healthy. We explain that after FGM, these parts cannot do their jobs effectively.

We have a lot of reports from girls remembering what happened to them. Some have bad dreams and say, "I hate body after circumcision, I am missing a part."

We had a case in 2016 when a couple wanted to have circumcision done to their girls. They went to a local midwife to do it, their five-year-old daughter started bleeding and was in a very bad way. She was referred to hospital and needed stitches. A local newspaper wrote about what had happened but the prosecutor refused to prosecute.

In Iran, we don't have big statistical studies to provide reliable data on the scale and nature of FGM. Things are challenging because we don't have enough support for our work and journalists stay silent about this issue.

I will continue talking about FGM in Iran. We are seeing more discussion, workshops are happening, and now the government knows more. The situation is improving but after ten years the pace is still slow.

People talk about how FGM is happening around the world but they don't pay much attention to Iran. We need the international community to speak up about FGM in Iran and support our work. Organizations like UNICEF and WHO should be pushing for change, but they stay silent.

I feel more strongly than ever that my steps are in the right direction. If even one more girl is circumcised, it is too many, and I am working with this girl in mind. ”



For Rayehe's full story head to equalitynow.org/Rayehe

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