

Immigration Sector Recommendations

Strategies to Respond to FGM/C in the United States

- I. Increase distribution of information about FGM/C through existing immigration channels.**
 - a. Ensure that all nationals of countries with high FGM/C prevalence rates applying for a visa to travel to the United States (immigrant or nonimmigrant) are provided with the U.S. Government Fact Sheet on FGM/C, including those who are applying outside of their country of nationality.
 - b. Distribute and/or display information about FGM/C and available resources in immigration offices in the United States (e.g., USCIS Field Offices and USCIS Asylum Offices).
 - c. Distribute information about FGM/C and available resources to at-risk individuals in immigration court proceedings.
 - d. Provide information about FGM/C and its consequences (e.g., health, legal, immigration, etc.) to at-risk individuals at U.S. airports upon entry and/or exit (e.g., passport insert, informational “shoe-card”, signage).
- II. For refugees from countries with high FGM/C prevalence rates, provide culturally sensitive and situationally appropriate information about FGM/C in cultural orientation materials and courses prior to and following resettlement in the United States.**
- III. Engage with U.S. located Embassies and Consulates of countries having high FGM/C prevalence to raise awareness and share information among their nationals.**
- IV. Increase joint U.S. Government and civil society action to educate and raise awareness of FGM/C and available resources, including potentially available immigration relief and/or benefits, through outreach events and distribution of information in immigrant communities in which FGM/C is traditionally practiced.**
- V. Take steps to increase awareness among at-risk immigrant communities, community organizations, and immigration service providers about forms of immigration relief and other assistance (e.g., asylum, U visa, Special Immigrant Juveniles Status, Department of State’s Overseas Citizens Services Office) that may be available to those who have undergone or fear FGM/C. Information shared may also include warnings of the criminal and immigration consequences of subjecting a girl or woman to FGM/C, civil legal options that protective relatives or individuals at risk may have to prevent FGM/C (e.g., protection orders in family court), and referrals to available resources and assistance.**
- VI. Increase tailored training relating to FGM/C for individuals who may encounter at-risk immigrants, including law enforcement officials, immigration judges, and social workers.**
- VII. Advocate for new forms of immigration relief or protection or expanded use of current ones (e.g., clarifying the availability of humanitarian parole for at-risk daughters still in the home country of an individual in the U.S. who is applying for asylum on the basis of a fear of FGM/C, creating through legislation a humanitarian visa to allow individuals who fear FGM/C or need treatment after having undergone FGM/C to travel to the United States, or legislation to enable “parent-protectors” to more easily secure immigration status).**
- VIII. Create a standing U.S. Government interagency working group that meets regularly to address FGM/C with a whole-of-government approach and to facilitate integration of U.S. Government efforts to end FGM/C. This working group should engage with civil society partners, including holding regular engagements with stakeholders and civil society to enhance coordination and transparency.**
- IX. Create a publicly accessible national database of resources and organizations available to assist those affected by FGM/C.**

END VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS: Summit on FGM/C ■ Washington, DC ■ December 2016
IMMIGRATION SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS



IMMIGRATION-RELATED RESOURCES

I. U.S. Government Fact Sheet on FGM/C (available in Amharic, Arabic, Bahasa, English, French, Somali, Swahili, Tigrinya): <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/fact-sheet-on-female-genital-mutilation-or-cutting.html>

II. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services FGM/C web page: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/female-genital-mutilation-or-cutting-fgmc>

III. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services FGM/C brochure: https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Humanitarian/Special%20Situations/FGMC_Brochure_FINAL.pdf

IV. U.S. Department of State Video, “Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation”: <https://share.america.gov/zero-tolerance-for-female-genital-mutilation/>

V. U.S. Department of Justice FGM/C Brochure: <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/criminal-hrsp/legacy/2015/02/05/hrsp-brochure-%28fgm%29-rev215.pdf>

VI. Short Film, “What to Bring to America”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQxoAFK5Xlg>