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.
IMMIGRATION-RELATED RESOURCES


VI. Short Film, “What to Bring to America”: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQxoAFKSXlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQxoAFKSXlg)