



## FGM = VAWG

Female Genital Mutilation is defined as a form of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in accordance with the 2011 Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.



## FGM SURVIVORS ARE VICTIMS OF VAWG

Women and girls who are survivors of FGM are also victims of violence against women and girls. As a female victim of VAWG you are protected by EU and international law.



## VICTIMS OF VAWG HAVE RIGHTS

Any persons who fall into the legal definition as a victim of violence against women and girls is victim of crime and has a number of rights under the EU including the right to support and are entitled to access victim support services .



## WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AS A VICTIM OF VAWG ?

Victim support services must:

- Inform victims of their rights
- Provide procedural and practical information
- Provide referrals to specialist services
- Receive emotional support



Victims have the rights to confidential, free support, whether they reported the crime or not, irrelevant of their residence status.



## HOW CAN I ACCESS THESE SERVICES ?

Visit [www.victimsupport.eu](http://www.victimsupport.eu) or  
[www.endfgm.eu/members](http://www.endfgm.eu/members) for further  
information on victims rights.

# RIGHTS SPECIFIC TO VICTIMS OF



## FGM



I UNDERWENT FGM RECENTLY AND AM EXPERIENCING MANY PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS. WHO CAN I TURN TO FOR ADVICE ?



Persons experiencing these issues are entitled to free information, advice, emotional, psychological and practical support from their local health services. Victim support services are also provided by specialized NGOs. See [www.endfgm.eu/members](http://www.endfgm.eu/members) for more information.



WHERE CAN I FIND AN NGO CLOSE TO ME FOR REFERRAL ?

For any information concerning access to such services, interested persons are invited to contact the End FGM European Network and its partner organisations.



CAN THE POLICE HELP ME GET SUPPORT ?

Yes. The EU member states are obliged to facilitate the referral of victims to support services.



I DO NOT WANT TO LODGE A COMPLAINT WITH THE POLICE. AM I STILL ENTITLED TO ACCESS VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES ?

Yes. FGM survivors are not obliged to file a formal complaint in order to have access to victim support services.



MORE QUESTIONS ?

For further information and answers to questions surrounding victim support for survivors of FGM you can refer to the 'Directive 2012/29 EU establishing minimum standards on their rights, support and protection of victims of crime.' available on End FGM EU website.



Co-funded by the  
Rights, Equality &  
Citizenship Programme  
of the European Union

WALLACE  
GLOBAL FUND  
*For a sustainable future*

