



**"Real people, Real stories.
Join us to end FGM in
Nigeria!"**

FEMALE GENITAL

Female genital mutilation comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Female genital mutilation violates the right to health and bodily integrity and is a form of violence against women and girls. It is nearly always carried out on minors and is a violation of the rights of children.

The practice also violates a person's rights to security and physical integrity, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the practice results in death.

Female genital mutilation is a harmful practice that is deeply rooted in tradition and upheld by the unequal power relations between men and women and the desire to control women's sexuality.



MUTILATION & ITS VICES

In some communities it is believed that the practice has religious support, but there is no evidence that FGM is required by Islam, Christianity or any other religion. Many religious leaders are advocating for the abandonment of FGM throughout the world.

Female genital mutilation exposes girls and women to severe and at times life threatening health complications, including hemorrhage, tetanus, sepsis, urine retention, sexual dysfunction and infertility.

Female genital mutilation has a direct impact on maternal mortality. Girls and women that have undergone FGM are 70% more likely to suffer hemorrhage after giving birth and are twice as likely to die during childbirth.

Female genital mutilation has a direct impact on infant mortality. FGM is linked to higher rates of infant resuscitation, stillbirth and increased risk of death during and immediately after birth.



ODUMEKE CONFIDENCE

"I remember the bleeding, I remember the pain, no woman deserves to be put through this..."

after 2 years in silence, Odumeke Confidence shares her story as a survivor of Female Genital Mutilation/cutting (FGM/C).

"I grew up uncut, but at the age of 17 when I got pregnant for a classmate, my parents said I got pregnant because I was not cut".

In May 2013, Confidence was in her 2nd trimester and regardless of the harm the practise could have either on her or her unborn child, the ceremonial cutting of her genitals was done in her father's barn. She was held down by four women, two on both sides and with her legs apart, the cutter took her position and did the damage. "I could not walk for weeks because I was in severe pain", Confidence says.

Five months after Confidence was cut, she had an obstructed labour and risked having an obstetric fistula amongst other complications. In many ways, she risked dying! After 2 days of intensive labour, she delivered her baby through a caesarean section.

**FGM/C PUTS A WOMAN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AT RISK.
JOIN ME TO #ENDFGM IN NIGERIA!**



30% more likely to
lose babies during labour



Lady Constance Ukwuoma

“ My genotype saved me from being cut and i’m proof that uncut women can bear children. ”

Lady Constance Ukwuoma tells the story of how she survived being cut. “All my siblings were circumcised, but I was not because I was a sickly child. I remained a tiny baby for a long time” she said.

Constance grew up to be a strong woman, got married and was pregnant with her first child. At the time of delivery, her mother was worried that she will not be able to have the baby through normal delivery and alternatives were suggested. Constance refused and successfully delivered her baby. She’s had nine more children after that.

**NO FEMALE CHILD SHOULD GO THROUGH THE PAIN OF FGM/C.
THE MYTH IS A LIE! JOIN ME TO #ENDFGM IN NIGERIA!**

40%

likely suffer &
eventually die from
health complications

The proportion of Female circumcision among girls
age 0-14 is higher among those whose mothers
have also been circumcised.

Chinenye Onwe

“ I was 5 years old when I was cut but the pain still feels real, it still hurts like yesterday ”

Chinenye Onwe is a grandchild of a cutter. When she was five, her Female genital organ was cut by her grandmother.

I was cut at my grandfather's yam barn, "take off your clothes" grandma said "and sit over the hole with your legs apart". In her hands was a sharp blade. She cut my clitoris and it fell into the hole. "Your dripping blood must touch the earth" she said. After I bled on the earth, she squeezed the juice from a herb and applied it on me. 'This will stop the bleeding' she promised, after which my clitoris was buried with a heap of sand. By performing the ritual she believed that I will not be a victim of childlessness because it is said that this curse is for the uncut woman.

I am now an auxiliary nurse at the Little Seed Maternity Home and I have learnt that Female Genital Mutilation/cutting is harmful and does no good. My mum thinks I am too young to understand a tradition that precedes my birth. Like many others she still thinks that cutting has no severe consequence. But it does. The "curse" on the uncut woman is a myth in my village and it is a false belief I hope to correct.

**NO FEMALE CHILD SHOULD GO THROUGH THE PAIN OF FGM/C.
THE MYTH IS A LIE! JOIN ME TO #ENDFGM IN NIGERIA!**



70%

**MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER
HEMORRHAGING FOLLOWING
CHILDBIRTH**

**REAL PEOPLE, REAL STORIES.
JOIN US TO END FGM IN NIGERIA**



☛ Chief Alabi Ogundepo hails from a lineage of cutters called Olola, yet he is a strong activist for the abandonment of FGM/C in Nigeria ☛

Chief Alabi Ogundepo

I am the son of an Olola. You can tell that I am by the marks on my face (4 marks on my right and 8 on my left). Our tradition dates far back in history but I have refused to be an Olola in practice.

I am now 74yrs old, a father to three female children born between 1971-1975 and none of them are cut. I do not like the practice. I have campaigned and will continue to campaign against it.

LET'S STAND UP FOR THE FEMALE CHILD AND PROTECT HER FROM THE DANGERS OF FGM/C. JOIN ME TO #ENDFGM IN NIGERIA

FGM PREVALENCE



Oyo, Osun, Ekiti,
Lagos, Imo, Ebonyi



2X more likely to
die during childbirth



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