Hello friends, and happy new year.

Great to have you here for another bi-weekly edition of our NFF newsletter.

In commemoration of the 2022 international day of zero tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), on February 6th, with the theme “Accelerating Investment to End FGM”, the Nigerian Feminist Forum (NFF) has called for an end to all forms of gender inequality, and discriminatory norms in Nigeria.

Female genital mutilation, also known as female circumcision, excision, or genital cutting is a harmful practice that comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injuries to the genital organs for non-medical reasons, mostly carried out between infancy and 18 years.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that “Female genital mutilation remains widespread in Nigeria. With an estimated 19.9 million survivors, Nigeria accounts for the third-highest number of women and girls who have undergone FGM. FGM is highest in the South East with 35 percent, followed by South West with 30 percent and lowest in the North East with six percent. The Nigerian states with the highest account of FGM practices are Ebonyi, Ekiti, Imo, Osun, Oyo amongst other states”.

Regrettably, hundreds of girls are at increased risk of female genital mutilation due to gender inequality and discriminatory social, cultural, and religious norms which uphold this harmful practice, while nobody has been prosecuted for these gross human rights violations.

NFF advocated the abolishment of FGM as it fostered gender-based violence, poverty, forced girls out of school, stole the future of girls, led to child marriage and teen pregnancy, horrendous life-lasting physical and psychological trauma, difficulty passing urine, injury to genital tissue, chronic pelvic infections, development of cysts, excessive scar tissue formation, infection of the reproductive system, decreased sexual pleasure and psychological consequences, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, and deaths.
While we mourned the innocent lives lost due to FGM complications, we restated our fears that it leads to complications during childbirth, including intimacy, and does not address the myth of hyperactive sexuality.

The Nigerian Feminist Forum (NFF) called on respective stakeholders in Nigeria to develop and enforce laws that prohibit and punish perpetrators of this harmful practice, and provide support services to victims of FGM who are at risk of physical and psychological complications in their lives.

Further, we called for the total abolition of FGM in every community in the country and urgent measures to address all forms of gender inequality and discriminatory norms in Nigeria.

We demanded legislation to criminalize early child marriage and offenders made to face the wrath of the law, measures to address the alarming gender-based discrimination in governance, politics, and public offices, and the inclusion of women. FGM must be stopped to address systematic poverty and out-of-school girls’ syndrome.

That’s the size of our newsletter for the week.

Remember, you can reach out to us with questions or suggestions. See you next week.

Cheers!

Angela Nkwo,

Communications Officer

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NFF in the News

Feminist Forum demands end to female circumcision

https://expressday.ng/feminist-forum-demands-end-to-female-circumcision/


The Secretariat;

Website: www.nigerianfeministforum.org