

englanti

# Let's protect girls from Female Genital Mutilation

 IHMIS  
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## **What is Female Genital Mutilation or FGM?**

Female Genital Mutilation, or FGM for short, refers to all non-medical procedures that damage the female genital organs. FGM can involve the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or causing other type of injury to the female genital organs. FGM is an old cultural tradition and is not required by any religion.



## **What are the health effects of FGM?**

All forms of FGM have adverse health effects. Immediate complications caused by FGM include e.g. bleeding, infections and even death. FGM also causes long-term complications which can include e.g. painful menstruations, urinary problems and infections. Women who have undergone FGM can also experience childbirth-related complications such as difficult deliveries and tearing during childbirth.



## **All forms of FGM are illegal in Finland**

FGM is a form of violence against girls and women and a serious violation of the human rights of girls and women. All forms of FGM are banned by law in Finland.

The maximum sentence for FGM in Finland is 10 years of imprisonment. If a girl resides in Finland, it is also illegal to take the girl abroad to have her undergone FGM, regardless of whether or not the practice is legal in the destination country. Performing FGM, inciting someone to perform FGM and assisting in performing FGM are all banned by law. Legal guardians have the responsibility to protect their child from FGM.

**If you need more information before leaving Finland,  
CONTACT THE FINNISH LEAGUE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:**

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Terveyden ja  
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