

**INTEGRA - German Network against Female Genital Mutilation**

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To

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Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> of may 2024, Germany

**Gambian women and girls in Germany appeal to the Gambian President and the Gambian Parliament:  
Concern about the prevailing FGM issue at hand (we consider it a shame)**

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Gambia, Mr. Adama Barrow,  
dear Members of the Gambian National Assembly,

It has come to our knowledge that the National Assembly of the Republic of the Gambia had on 18 march 2024 a debate about the repealing of the laws against Female Circumcision which we as parents, advocates as a big slap on our faces.

We are therefore sending our sincere concern for the voiceless women and girls at large. And also appealing to the Gambia government to take strict actions against this.

We expressly support the resolution of the European Parliament of 25 April 2024, a copy of which is attached here.

We are sending this letter with the express support of INTEGRA, the German Network to Overcome Female Genital Mutilation

Yours sincerely  
We the Gambians

Thursday, 25 April 2024 - Strasbourg

The proposed repeal of the law banning female genital mutilation in The Gambia

**European Parliament resolution of 25 April 2024** on the proposed repeal of the law banning female genital mutilation in The Gambia ([2024/2699\(RSP\)](#))

- having regard to the Samoa Agreement,
- having regard to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the

Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

- having regard to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Maputo Protocol and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,
- having regard to Sustainable Development Goal 5, aiming for the global eradication of female genital mutilation (FGM) by 2030,
- having regard to Rules 144(5) and 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the landmark Women’s (Amendment) Act of 2015 in The Gambia bans FMG, making it punishable by up to three years in prison;

B. whereas on **18 March 2024**, a proposed law to repeal the ban passed the second reading in the Gambian Parliament and has now been referred to a parliamentary committee that will take at least three months to examine it before returning to parliament for a third and final review;

C. whereas The Gambia risks being the first country in the world to reverse legal protection against FGM; whereas this risks encouraging a similar weakening of the rights of women and girls in the region;

D. whereas FGM is a grave violation of human rights and discrimination against girls and women; whereas it is not justified by any religion or culture, is an abusive, exploitative and harmful practice with severe consequences including irreparable physical, psychological, reproductive and sexual health damage, and can lead to death; whereas it prevents women and girls from reaching their full potential and participating in society;

E. whereas The Gambia has among the highest prevalence of FGM in the world, and according to UNICEF, 76 % of Gambian women aged 15-49 have been circumcised; whereas over 230 million girls and women worldwide are affected by FGM;

1. Urges the Gambian Parliament to demonstrate its commitment to international human rights law and multiple international and regional agreements to which The Gambia is a signatory, to protect the rights of women and girls, and therefore to reject the proposal and uphold the criminalisation of FGM;