



PRESS RELEASE

8th ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

6th FEBRUARY 2011

Geneva February 6th 2011 - The International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation is a UN-sponsored awareness day that takes place February 6 each year. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) eradication has become over the years a major public health issue hampering the lives of 3-4 million women and girls who will suffer their lifetime the consequences of this harmful traditional practice. With migrations, FGM is now present in Canada, the United States, Australia, and Europe. They have put to a test our responsibility as societies to respond adequately and globally to the worst violation of women's rights.

Created in Geneva in november 2010, the Global Alliance Against Female Genital Mutilation (GA-FGM), is a Canadian-German initiative. After studying the case of the african eradication model, the GA-FGM has identified five missing strategies that - if adequately supported - could accelerate the total abandonment of FGM and enhance the key role of men in this process.

- FGM Portal and monitoring system
- Annual rotating conferences in concerned countries
- A University Chair on FGM and other harmful traditions
- Special trainings for doctors and psychologists
- Mobile medical and reconstruction units

The GA-FGM works in complementarity with the World Health Organization (WHO). Due to the lack of data about FGM around the world, it has developped a FGM portal and a hub designed to give a voice to all actors working on FGM eradication. The portal's purpose is to federate and fill in information gaps between NGOs, universities, concerned countries, International Organizations, United Nations joint programs, private donors, sponsors, and the recently created UN-Women. From the smallest NGO to the most experienced Ministries of Education, all will be entitled to publish results, share winning eradication models, policies, political actions and participate in an FGM global alert system. The portal and its evidence-based monitoring system have been programmed to create a global communication platform accessible to all, without competition.

The Global Alliance Against FGM is supported by men and women of all cultures who became our "Partners for a better world". The famous Dutch Jazz player Jasper Van't Hof and Commandante Christine de St Genois de Grand Breucq, a pioneer in commercial aviation and one of first woman to pilot a Boeing 707, have both accepted to act as Goodwill Ambassadors. Jazz player Jasper Van't Hof has associated his label to our young initiative. He will give charity-concerts in Geneva and around the world to raise visibility and reinforce the role of men in the eradication of FGM. Commandante Christine de St Genois de Grand Breucq will participate to the 55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New-York amongst other diplomatic duties. *"Under-Secretary-General for UN-Women, Michelle Bachelet has to be aware and fully support this unprecedented collaborative initiative"* said de St Genois de Grand Breucq.

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