



“To cut off the sensitive sexual organ of a girl is directly against the honesty of nature, a distortion to her womanhood, and an abuse of her fundamental human right”

Joseph Osuigwe Chidiebere

The Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act states that FGM comprises of all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs, or any harmful procedure to the female genitalia, for non-medical reasons.¹

KELIN is deeply encouraged by the 2022 Kenya Demographic Health Survey figures which revealed that prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation is at 15 per cent. The report further indicates that the prevalence has declined by more than a half from 1998, which recorded 38 per cent. Notably, FGM prevalence generally increases with age, KDHS shows that 9 per cent of women aged between 15-19 years had been circumcised. This is compared to 23 per cent of women aged 45-49 years who had been circumcised.²

Despite an enabling legal environment and progressive realization, Kenya has witnessed

an increase in cross-border FGM with women and girls being sneaked across neighboring East African countries of Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia and Ethiopia to undergo the cut before being sneaked back in. Undoubtedly, there is a huge gap in the enforcement of the laws and policies intended to protect women and girls from FGM due to the emergence of cross-border FGM.

KELIN calls on the State and the Anti-FGM Board to encourage communities to adopt alternative rites of passage. We also urge the State and the Anti-FGM Board to strengthen coordination and give effect to the declaration to eliminate cross-border FGM signed by Ethiopia, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya by supporting the cross-border taskforces.

KELIN remains steadfast in advocating for the eradication of FGM and other harmful practices in Kenya.

¹Section 2 of the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2011

²Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, 2022