

# STATEMENT

## **"TAKING ACTION ON FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING IN CANADA & BEYOND" CONFERENCE BY END FGM CANADA NETWORK**

*Honourable Marci Ien,  
Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth*

"Today, on the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, I want to thank everyone at the End FGM Canada Network for carrying out this important work.

Events like this are so important, they raise awareness of this issue, and are a place where likeminded people can come together to find solutions and share best practices. This conference serves as a platform to amplify the voices of survivors, advocate for change, and mobilize collective action towards ending FGM/C in Canada and beyond.

Through initiatives such as uniting stakeholders across Canada, creating platforms for engagement, and offering trauma-informed tools to frontline professionals, End FGM Canada Network is driving meaningful change at the grassroots level. Their collaboration with international partners further strengthens the global movement to eradicate FGM/C and uphold the rights of women and girls worldwide.

Our government strongly condemns the practice of FGM, which is a form of aggravated assault in Canada's Criminal Code and is illegal. We also know that it is a form of gender-based violence, a violation of human rights, and child abuse.

No woman or girl should ever live in fear of physical or psychological harm that threatens her well-being and violates her human rights. Canada will continue to promote and protect the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls, and strive towards the goal to eliminate FGM by 2030.

This year's theme, "Her Voice, Her Future: Investing in Survivors-Led Movements to End Female Genital Mutilation," resonates deeply with our government's mission. We recognize that survivors and those impacted by FGM/C are at the forefront of the anti-FGM/C movement in Canada. Their stories, experiences, and needs must remain central to our efforts as we work towards a future free from FGM/C.

I cannot be with you today, but please know that I support your work to build a safer, fairer, and brighter future for everyone."

- **Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth**