



Furthermore, it is important to know that the law in Spain states that female genital mutilation is a crime. Parents can be sent to prison for between 6 and 12 years and may lose the custody of their daughters. What is more, the law punishes this practice even when it is carried out outside Spain.

Female genital mutilation is also punished by law in other countries such as Egypt, Senegal, Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Ghana, amongst others.

Men and women can work together to put an end to this practice.



**FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IS
EXTREMELY HARMFUL TO THE HEALTH
OF GIRLS AND WOMEN.**

**Find out more!
Look after your daughters' health!**



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Our goal is family well being



**HEALTH INFORMATION
FOR WOMEN
AND GIRLS**



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CUTTING, EXCISION, ABLATION, FEMALE CIRCUMCISION, SUNNA, ÑYAKAA, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ...



It has many names but always refers to the cutting and partial or complete removal of a woman's genitals.

Families, both mothers and fathers, sometimes mistakenly believe that it is good to "cut" their daughters for some of the following reasons:

► **"It's an obligatory part of our religion"**

In reality it is NOT obligatory in the Muslim religion. *The Koran makes no mention of female genital mutilation and the Prophet says that we must take care of girls.*

There are Islamic states that follow Islamic law but do not "cut" girls (e.g. Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria, Morocco and Libya).

Islam forbids torture and the Prophet says: *"He who hurts a Muslim, hurts me. And he who hurts me, hurts Allah".*



► **"It keeps a woman virgin or chaste"**

Mutilation does not necessarily maintain chastity. What is more, it is not necessary to mutilate girls in order to protect their virginity. Their family upbringing is more important. On the other hand, there are many women who have not been "cut" who are faithful and are not promiscuous.

► **"Ablation is a tradition and should be maintained"**

If a tradition is dangerous to the health of girls and women and goes against human rights, then it should be abandoned.

► **"Cut genitals are cleaner"**

On the contrary, when the genitals are cut they become damaged and more vulnerable. The girl or woman may develop urinary infections or various gynaecological problems.

► **"Cut genitals look nicer"**

A woman's genitals are in no way ugly or bad, so there is no reason to cut them.

► **"Ablation means that the woman will have more children"**

Untrue. The cutting of genitals can cause more complicated births, with greater risks for the mother and baby. It can also make it more difficult to get pregnant.

► **"The clitoris will grow too much or hurt the man"**

Women who have not been mutilated do not have a larger clitoris and their husbands do not suffer any harm.

► **"It's good for the girl or woman"**

This is not true. The cutting of genitals is extremely bad for the health of girls and women. Girls suffer a great deal, with fear, intense pain and heavy bleeding, some even die.

This practice can cause infections, severe anaemia, extremely painful and heavy menstruation, painful scars, difficulty in urinating, sadness, depression, pain during intercourse, relationship problems and difficulties in having children.

Some of these problems do not appear until the woman is an adult.

