



Press release

5th Feb/2018

For the last two to three decades, the campaign against Female Genital Mutilation in Somaliland which was mainly led by the Civil Society Organizations has witnessed a tremendous approach shift.

Today, most of the Civil Society Organizations who have been actively working on anti-GM/C campaign came together to pool and discuss new strategies on how the national policy against FGM/C policy can get approved by the new Somaliland government cabinet.

Outlawing FGM was one of the pledges made by the new government during the concluded presidential election campaigns. Henceforth, the civil society organizations in reference to this pledge calls upon the new government to fast-track the following actions:

- The new Somaliland government led by His Excellency president, Muse Bihi to approve the national Anti- FGM/C policy.
- The government to outlaw FGM/C practices by putting in place a law banning/criminalizing all types FGM/C.
- The government to declare its position against FGM/C by informing all Somaliland citizens how FGM/C violates the rights of women and girls, their wellbeing, and puts in danger their reproductive health.
- The Civil Society Organizations request the president of Somaliland and his cabinet of ministers led by the minister of Religious Affairs and Endowment and the prominent religious leaders/scholars to give an official declaration (Fatwa) against all types of FGM/C as practiced in Somaliland.
- They also ask parents to unwaveringly support the campaign against FGM/C to safeguard the wellbeing and the rights of our girls.
- FGM/C can only be eradicated by holistic support and concerted efforts from all, thus we encourage every citizen of good will to take part in this noble anti-FGM/C campaign in Somaliland.

Finally, Civil Society Organizations continue to acknowledge the good work of all actors who have relentlessly showed their perpetual support to elimination of FGM/C in Somaliland. They strongly believe that the only way to guarantee success is to keep anti-FGM/C message spreading to grassroots as much as it is to the regions and national levels.

“THERE IS STRENGTH IN UNITY”