



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Twenty-ninth session

Agenda items 2 and 3

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the  
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

## **Compilation of good practices and major challenges in preventing and eliminating female genital mutilation**

**Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
Human Rights**

### **Corrigendum**

#### **Paragraph 14**

The paragraph *should read*

14. Cross-border female genital mutilation is increasingly documented, partly owing to the criminalization of the practice and to strict enforcement of legislation prohibiting it in countries with large practicing communities. In accordance with article 44, paragraph 3, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, States parties must ensure that the practice is punishable if committed in a third country by or against one of their nationals or residents, even if the practice is not considered a criminal offence in that country. Similarly, States parties must take the measures necessary to establish jurisdiction over a female genital mutilation offence when an alleged perpetrator is present on their territory. This principle of extraterritoriality has been introduced into many European laws. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 applies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005 applies in Scotland. Sections 1 and 4 of the 2003 Act, as amended by section 70 (1) of the Serious Crime Act 2015, together make it an offence, triable in the courts of England, Wales or Northern Ireland, for a United Kingdom national or United Kingdom resident to carry out or be involved in carrying out female genital mutilation outside the United Kingdom. Sections 1 and 4 of the 2005 Act, as amended by section 70 (2) of the Serious Crime Act 2015, have the same effect in Scotland. In 2006, Italy introduced a specific criminal law provision on the practice (Law No. 7/2006), making it

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punishable even if it is committed outside the country. Denmark, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland have criminalized practicing or assisting or abetting the practice of female genital mutilation, both inside and outside the countries. In 2011, Kenya added an extraterritoriality clause in its law, making performing female genital mutilation outside its border a criminal offence for Kenyans. In 2012, Ireland adopted the Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Act, which prohibits the practice of or attempts to practice female genital mutilation.

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