

**2022 Annual Report on the  
Female Genital Mutilation  
and Cutting Advisory Committee**



**Mayor's Office to  
End Domestic and  
Gender-Based Violence**

## **2022 Annual Report on the New York City Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Advisory Committee**

The Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C) Advisory Committee was established by Local Law 109 of 2021, and is chaired by The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV). The advisory committee aims to make recommendations that engage communities and agencies in decrease and eventually eliminate FGM/C in the city. The advisory committee will also identify supportive community-based and culturally-responsive resources for people who have undergone FGM/C. To achieve this, the advisory committee will make recommendations to address:

- 1) Enhancing access to guidelines and trainings for educators, non-profit organizations, law enforcement and healthcare providers to assist in: (i) the identification and protection of individuals at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation and cutting, and (ii) reporting instances of FGM/C;
- 2) Preventing and responding to the practice of FGM/C, including through culturally sensitive public information about FGM/C;
- 3) Improving the collection of data concerning the practice of FGM/C among individuals and communities in the city, to the extent allowed by law;
- 4) Improving the coordination of systems and services for, as well as the response of agencies to, individuals and communities affected by the practice of FGM/C; and
- 5) Providing opportunities for input from, as well as soliciting and considering the recommendations of stakeholders including, but not limited to, community and faith-based groups, advocacy organizations, survivors of FGM/C and social service providers.

This is the first annual report submitted to the Mayor and Speaker of the Council pursuant to Local Law 109 of 2021.

### **Committee Member Appointments and Representatives**

As mandated by Local Law 109, the Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Advisory Committee must include the following members:

- Three medical professionals, appointed by the Mayor, including two or more licensed physicians, who have extensive experience working with patients who have undergone FGM/C and training healthcare providers on related issues;
- Three representatives, appointed by the Mayor, who are from non-profit organizations that work with individuals who have undergone or are at risk of undergoing FGM/C;
- An expert, appointed by the Mayor, who is in the field of public health data collection and analysis who has relevant research experience and expertise;
- Three individuals, appointed by the Mayor, who have undergone FGM/C.

Mayoral appointments were finalized in December 2022.

The Law also requires designees from the following:

- Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, who shall serve as chair;
- Administration for Children's Services;

- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
- Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs ;
- New York City Police Department;
- Commission on Gender Equity;
- Department of Education ;
- Each Borough President's Office;
- NYC Health and Hospitals .

Members of the Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Advisory Committee include, in alphabetical order:

- **Daniel Abramson**, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Appointments at the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President
- **Veronica Ades**, Vice Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at NYC Health and Hospitals Jacobi Medical Center
- **Ariella Davidov**, Gender Justice Coordinator at the Office of the Queens Borough President
- **Mariama Diallo**, Mayoral Appointee, Program Director at Sanctuary for Families
- **Melissa Eger**, Chief of the Domestic Violence Department, New York City Police Department
- **Eona Harrison**, Mayoral Appointee, Senior Research Associate at the Urban Institute
- **Jennifer Hawkins**, Mayoral Appointee, Registered Nurse
- **Selina Higgins**, Executive Director of the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy at the New York City Administration for Children's Services
- **Dena Igusti**, Mayoral Appointee, Writer and Filmmaker
- **Natasha Johnson**, Founder and Executive Director of Globalizing Gender
- **Nancy Kheck**, Director of Health and Human Services at the Office of the Bronx Borough President
- **Nonya Khedr**, Mayoral Appointee, Founder and CEO of SheFFA
- **Lorena Lucero**, Chief Policy Officer at the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- **Jeanine Marie**, Policy & Program Analyst for Health and Reproductive Justice at the New York City Commission on Gender Equity
- **Ushma Neill**, Vice President of Scientific Education and Training at Memorial Sloan Kettering
- **Deborah Ottenheimer**, Mayoral Appointee, Director of Women's Health Services at NYC Health and Hospitals Gotham Health, Morrisania Diagnostic and Treatment Center
- **Melissa Paquette**, Director of Policy at the New York City Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence
- **Winn Periyasamy**, Assistant Policy Director at the Office of the Manhattan Borough President
- **Artee Perumal**, Senior Program Strategy Analyst for the Office of Equity and Strategy at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- **Jaana Rehnstrom**, Mayoral Appointee, Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Founder of the Kota Alliance
- **Danny Salim**, Deputy Director of Solution Based Casework at the Arab-American Family Support Center
- **Arrizu Sirjani**, Policy Advisor at the New York City Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence
- **Elena Sullivan**, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

- **Oneatha Swinton**, Office of Safety and Prevention Partnerships at the NYC Department of Education
- **Mariya Taher**, Mayoral Appointee, Co-Founder of Sahiyo
- **Linda Tigani**, Acting Chief Equity Officer at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- **Sean Saifa Wall**, Mayoral Appointee, Co-Founder of the Intersex Justice Project
- **Nathalie Weeks**, Mayoral Appointee, Counselor and Senior Advisor at African Services Committee
- **Rashimma Wilson**, Training and Curriculum Specialist at the New York City Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

### **2022 Advisory Committee Meetings**

ENDGBV convened the first meeting of the FGM/C Advisory Committee on December 14, 2022. At this meeting, ENDGBV Commissioner Cecile Noel and former City Council Member Helen Rosenthal welcomed the advisory committee members. The agenda for this initial meeting included introductions, an overview of the practice and prevalence of FGM/C, and a summary of the responsibilities and requirements of the advisory committee. The advisory committee discussed a proposed work plan and agreed to establish four subcommittees: Education and Training, Outreach Strategies for Prevention and Response, Strategies to Enhance Data Collection, and Interagency Coordination.

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