

Connecticut Governor's Council on Women and Girls

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 3 PM EST



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Introduction



Our mission is to eliminate FGM/C by connecting, supporting, elevating and advocating on behalf of and with diverse U.S. stakeholders engaged in prevention, education, and care.



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What is FGM/C?

“Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.”

-World Health Organization

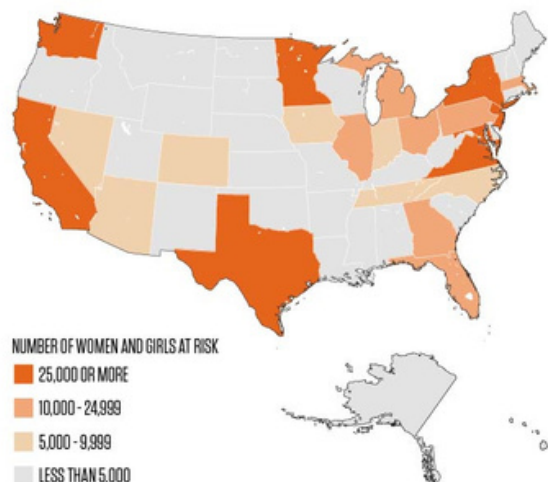




FGM/C in the U.S.

513,000 or more women and girls in the United States had FGM/C performed on them or were at risk of FGM/C in 2012.

THE NUMBER OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AT RISK OF FGM/C VARIES WIDELY ACROSS THE STATES.



Source: Population Reference Bureau, 2013 data.

Source: Population Reference Bureau

*State-by-State Estimates of Girls and Women at Risk for FGM/C (2019)
Compared to Previous PRB Estimates (2013)*

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--------------|
| CA | 76,997 (56,872 PRB est) | 35% increase |
| MN | 53,019 (44,293 PRB est) | 20% increase |
| TX | 50,678 (33,087 PRB est) | 53% increase |
| NY | 46,280 (48,418 PRB est) | 4% decrease |
| MD | 32,975 (31,820 PRB est) | 4% increase |
| VA | 31,440 (30,830 PRB est) | 2% increase |
| NJ | 29,193 (31,023 PRB est) | 6% decrease |
| WA | 25,311 (25,000 PRB est) | 1% increase |
| OH | 21,797 (24,320 PRB est) | 10% decrease |
| GA | 20,730 (20,476 PRB est) | 1% increase |

Source: Sean Callaghan



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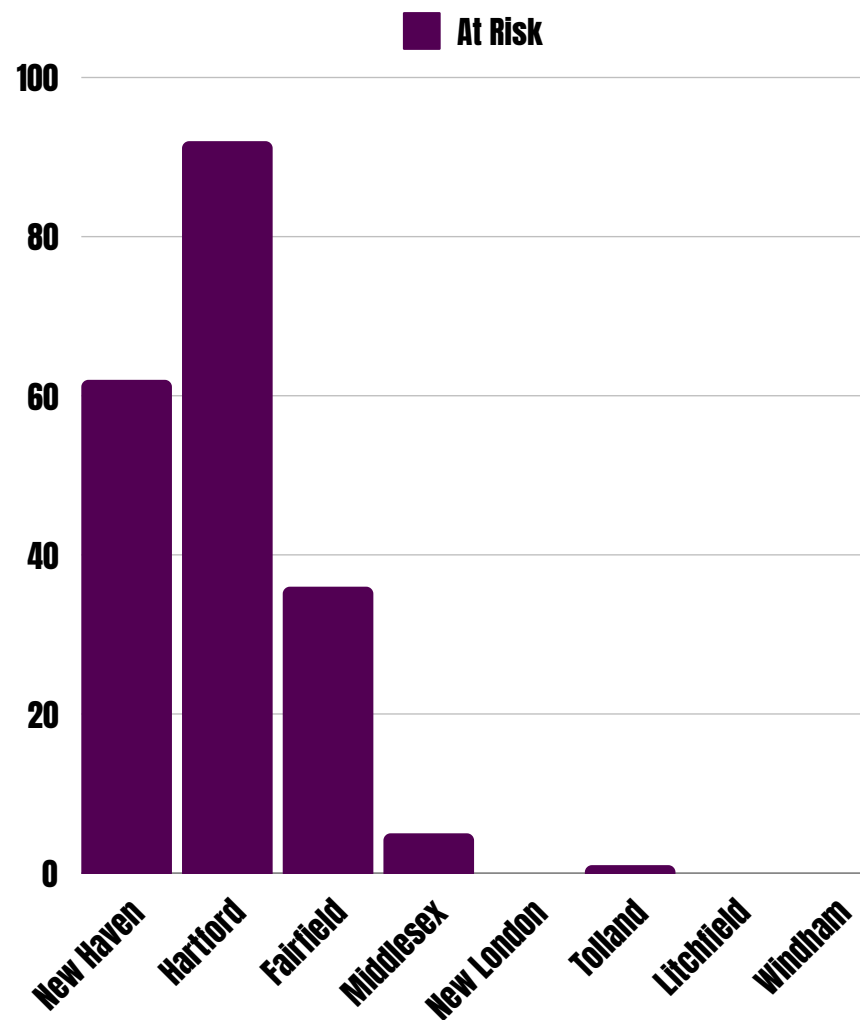
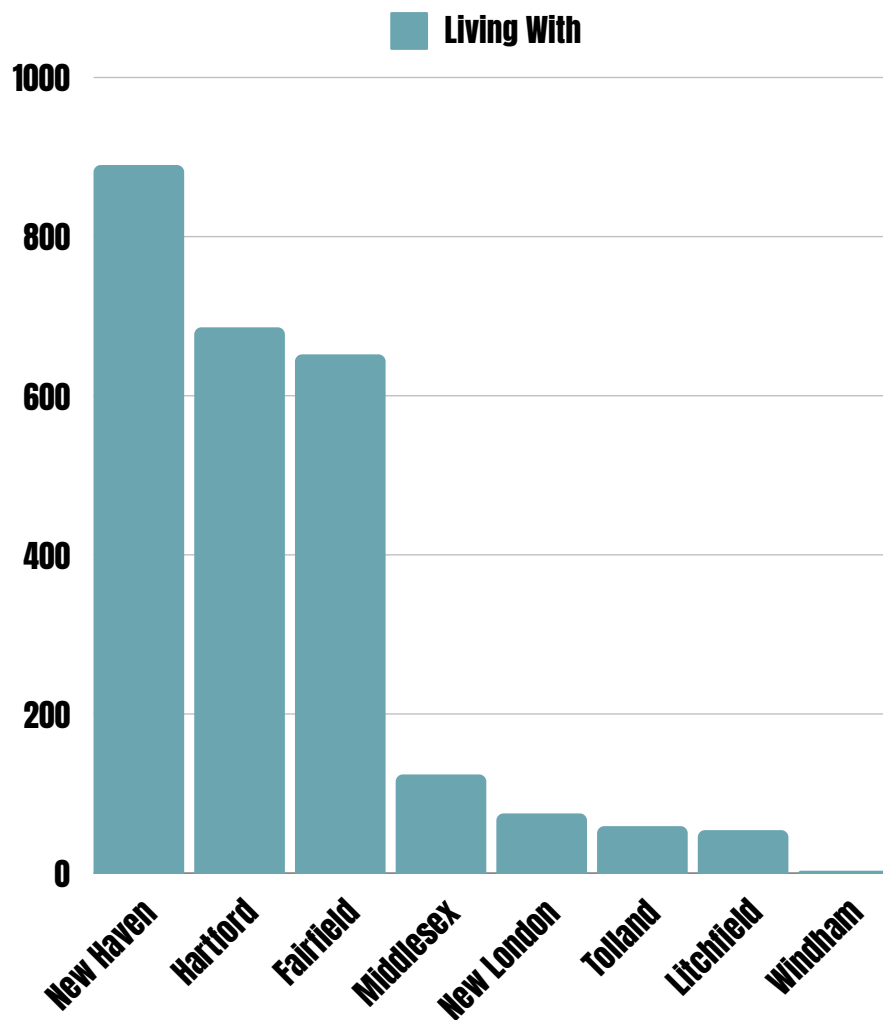
FGM/C in Connecticut

- Connecticut ranks 26th in the nation for at-risk populations, totaling 2,658.
- 1,128 of those girls are under the age of 18, according to the Population Reference Bureau.
- 41 states have laws, **Connecticut is one of the remaining 9 states that do not.**



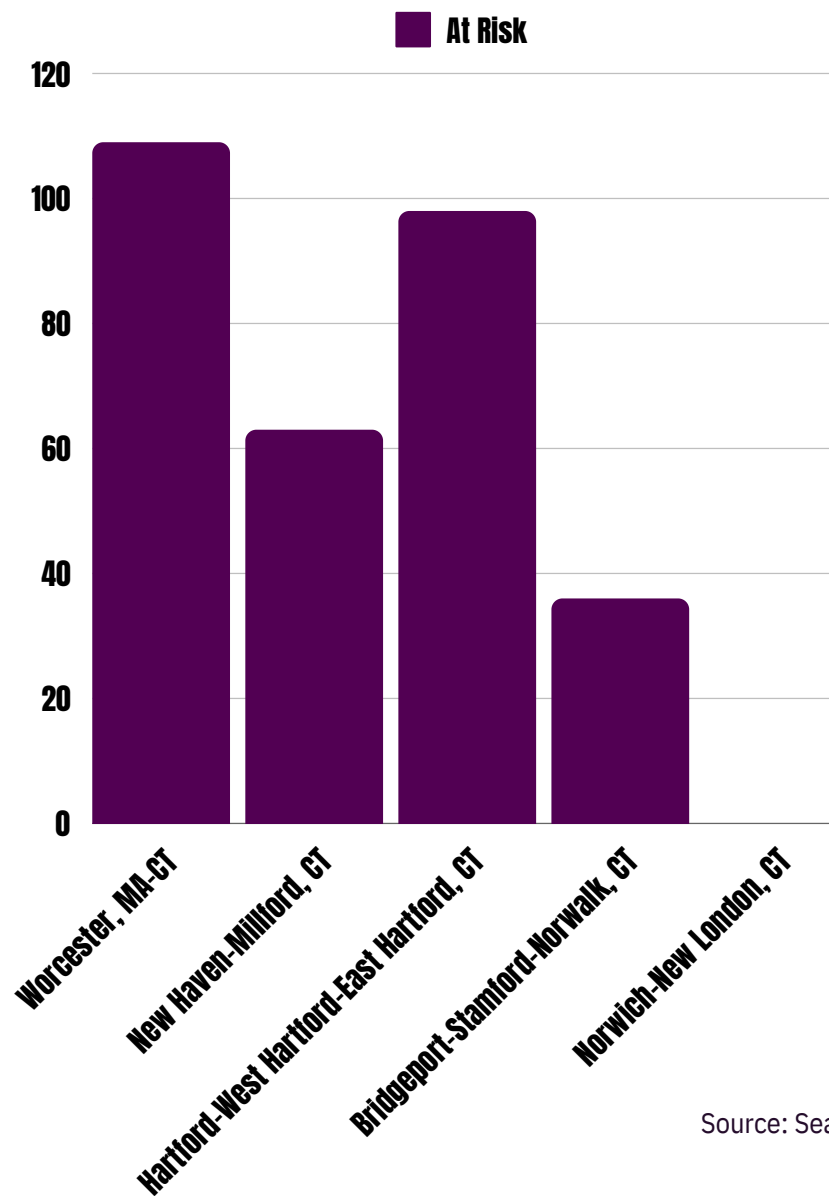
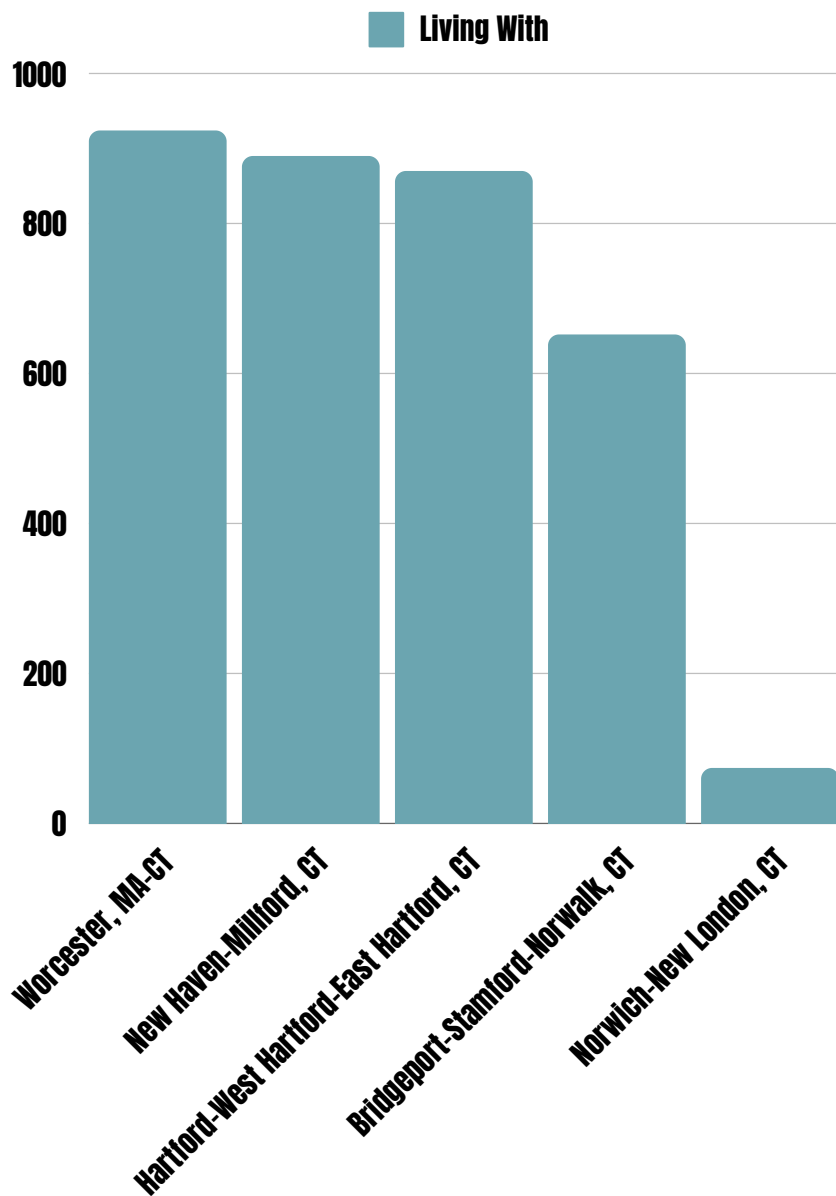


FGM/C in Connecticut by County





FGM/C in Connecticut by Metropolitan Area





U.S. Federal Law

18 U.S. Code § 116 - Female genital mutilation

U.S. Code Notes

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(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), whoever, in any circumstance described in subsection (d), knowingly—

- (1)** performs, attempts to perform, or conspires to perform female genital mutilation on another person who has not attained the age of 18 years;
- (2)** being the parent, guardian, or caretaker of a person who has not attained the age of 18 years facilitates or consents to the female genital mutilation of such person; or
- (3)** transports a person who has not attained the age of 18 years for the purpose of the performance of female genital mutilation on such person,

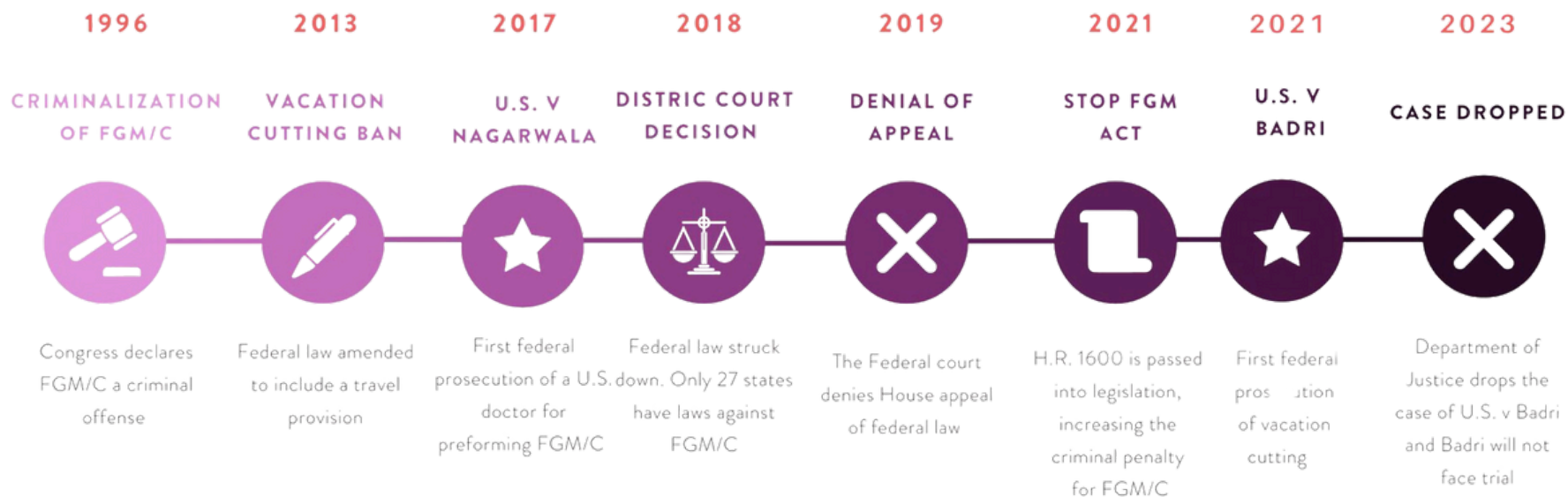
shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.



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sahiyo
United Against Female Genital Cutting

FGM/C LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED STATES

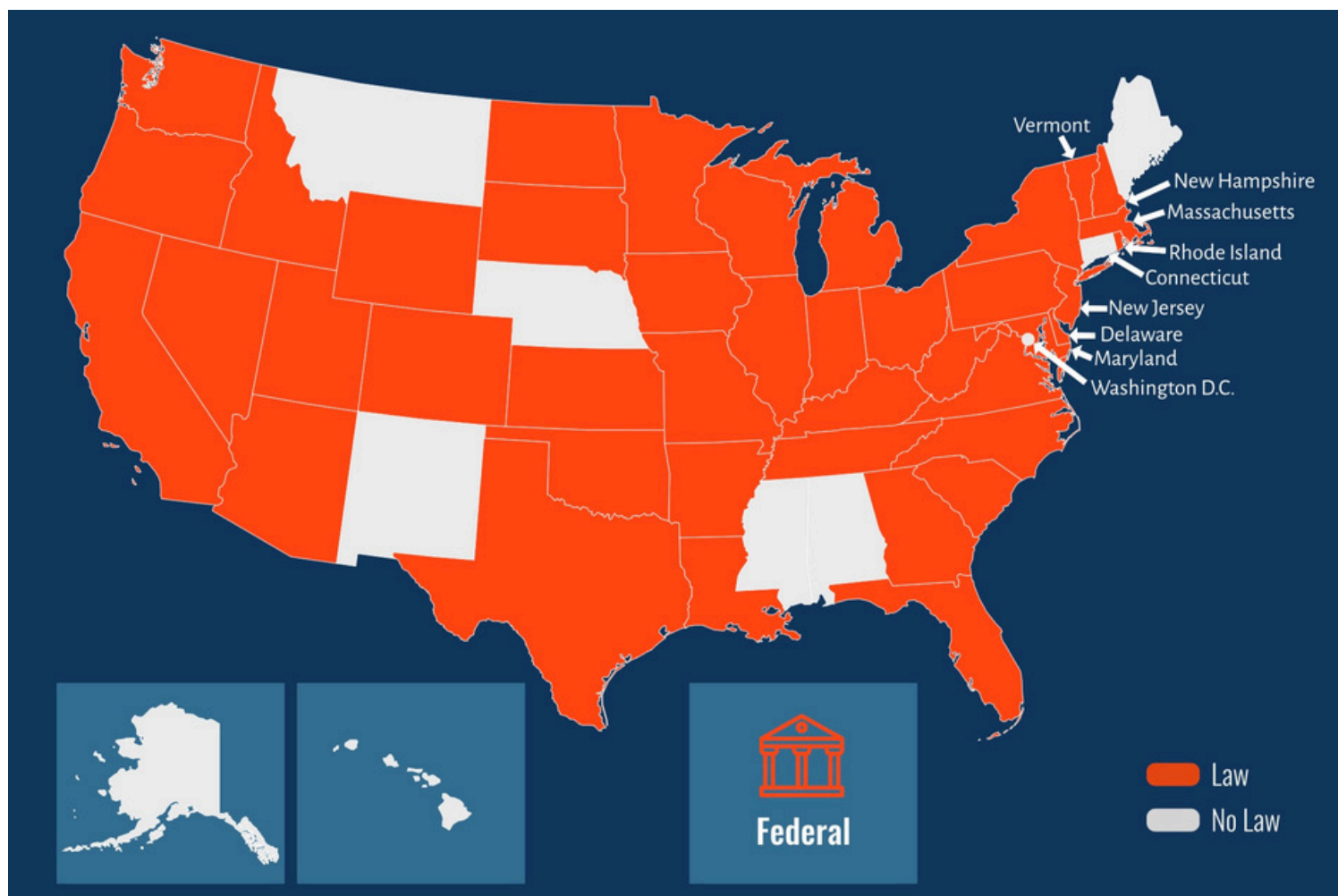


Source: Sahiyo



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States With Laws Against FGM/C



Source: Equality Now & The U.S. End FGM/C Network



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State Laws Remain Critical

- We know anecdotally that families on the fence or resisting having their children undergo the procedure, but facing pressure from family or community members to do so, use the law as the reason for why they will not cut their children.
- State laws fill gaps left by federal laws. Comprehensive state legislation provides education and outreach on FGM/C to local communities and professionals likely to encounter cases, and gives survivors the opportunity to stand up for themselves in a court of law.
- A state law gives state prosecutors more leeway in the event the Department of Justice cannot or will not prosecute.



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Connecticut Coalition to End FGM/C

- We are a survivor-led coalition working to ensure that the State of Connecticut joins with 41 other states - including its neighboring states of New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts - to prohibit female genital mutilation and cutting of minors.
- In Connecticut, 39 organizations have joined the Connecticut Coalition to End FGM/C. The Coalition has been working with survivors, organizations, advocates, and lawmakers to pass a holistic, comprehensive bill that prohibits FGM/C in Connecticut.



PROTECT GIRLS FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING IN CONNECTICUT



COALITION MEMBERS



LEGISLATION TO
END FGM/C IN
CONNECTICUT HAS
BEEN ENDORSED BY:

- Center for Youth Leadership
- Connecticut Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
- Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence
- Connecticut Bar Association's Women in the Law Section
- Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Connecticut Children's Alliance
- Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities
- Connecticut Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity
- Connecticut Counseling Association
- Connecticut Gambian Association
- Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants
- Connecticut Lt. Governor's Office
- Connecticut Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association
- Connecticut Voices for Children
- Connecticut Women's Consortium
- Equality Now
- Every Woman Connecticut
- Global Girls Worldwide Women
- Governor's Council on Women and Girls
- Guilford Human Rights Commission
- Inclusive America
- InterACT
- Inter African Committee on Traditional Practices USA
- IRIS - Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services
- Love 146
- Muslim Americans in Public Services
- National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut Chapter
- Office of the Child Advocate, State of Connecticut
- Reproductive Equity Now
- Sahiyo: United to End Female Genital Cutting
- The Association of School Nurses of Connecticut
- Unchained at Last
- UNICEF USA
- U.S. End FGM/C Network
- WeSpeakOut
- West Hartford Human Rights Commission
- Women & Family Life Center
- Yale Center for Asylum Medicine (YCAM)

Thank You!

For more information, visit:
<https://endfgmcinct.com>

If you have any questions, please email:
[**caitlin@endfgmnetwork.org**](mailto:caitlin@endfgmnetwork.org)



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