



**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**  
on the  
**New York City Female Genital Mutilation  
and Cutting Advisory Committee**



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

## **2023 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 to 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 second annual report submitted to the Mayor and Speaker of the Council pursuant to Local Law 109 of 2021.

### **2023 Advisory Committee Meetings**

In 2023, the Advisory Committee divided into four subcommittees: (1) Education and Training; (2) Outreach Strategies for Prevention and Response; (3) Strategies to Enhance Data Collection; and (4) Interagency Coordination. These subcommittees reflect four of the five objectives of the Advisory Committee outlined in Local Law 109 of 2021. To meet the fifth objective, the Advisory Committee will hold listening sessions. These sessions will provide opportunities for input and recommendations from stakeholders including survivors of FGM/C, community and faith-based groups, and advocacy organizations, among others.

Throughout 2023, subcommittees met to share information about existing services, resources, and systems that support or intersect with individuals and communities who may be impacted by FGM/C. Information gathered and exchanged by subcommittees was based on members' personal and professional experiences, individual and collective research, and conversations with stakeholders. As the subcommittees met, members identified potential service and resource gaps and opportunities for increased coordination, education, training, and community engagement. The Advisory Committee convened two general meetings in July and December of 2023. In these general meetings, subcommittees reported out on their findings and members provided feedback.

During the subcommittee and general meetings, members agreed that the Advisory Committee would plan listening sessions to hear from additional stakeholders, communities, and survivors. Through its subcommittees, the Advisory Committee identified stakeholder groups for listening sessions and drafted

questions for each group. The Advisory Committee will begin listening sessions in 2024 and these listening sessions will inform the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

### **2023 Additional Events**

Throughout the year, Advisory Committee members held events on female genital mutilation and cutting including:

- “Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Awareness: What You Need to Know” workshop facilitated by multiple members of the Advisory Committee as part of the NYC Administration for Children’s Services’ 2023 NYC Child Trafficking Prevention Conference.
- “What is FGM/C: And what can we do about it?” panel discussion hosted by the Kota Alliance.
- “Voices to End FGM/C Fall 2022 Cohort Screening”, a video screening and panel discussion hosted by Sahiyo in collaboration with StoryCenter and Asian Women’s Shelter.

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

As mandated by Local Law 109 of 2021, 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; and
- NYC Health and Hospitals.

As of December 2023, members of the Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Advisory Committee included, 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

- **Tesa Arozqueta**, Executive Director of External Affairs at the New York City Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence
- **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
- **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
- **Jessie Kravet**, Program Coordinator at the New York City Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence
- **Katherine LaGuardia**, Special Advisor at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- **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
- **Lucette Moran**, Policy Advisor at the New York City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs
- **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 Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs 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
- **Jessamy Rahman-Klapper**, Director of Programs at Pillars of Peace
- **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
- **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

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