

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**on the**  
**New York City Female Genital**  
**Mutilation and Cutting Advisory Committee**

## **2024 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 third annual report submitted to the Mayor and Speaker of the Council pursuant to Local Law 109 of 2021. In 2024, the Advisory Committee engaged in the following activities:

### **2024 Advisory Committee Listening Sessions**

In 2024, the Advisory Committee convened a total of eight listening sessions to hear from stakeholders, including city agencies, community and faith-based groups, advocacy organizations, social service providers, and community members. These listening sessions helped the Advisory Committee understand the interconnected systems, services, and resources that could be used or adapted to support individuals and communities impacted by FGM/C. The findings of these listening sessions will be incorporated into the Advisory Committee's recommendations report, which ENDGBV anticipates will be released in 2025.

### **Listening Sessions with System Partners**

From March 2024 through May 2024, the Advisory Committee hosted five listening sessions with system partners, including healthcare providers, nonprofit staff, educators, members of city government, and law enforcement. Each listening sessions covered a specific topic: (1) education and training; (2) outreach strategies for prevention and response; (3) strategies to enhance data

collection; and (4) interagency coordination. There were two separate listening sessions about education and training and one listening session for the other topics. In total, 46 individuals participated in the listening sessions.

The goal of these system partners listening sessions was to supplement and test the research, knowledge-sharing, landscape mapping, and preliminary recommendations that the Advisory Committee completed in 2023. During the listening sessions, participants shared their professional experiences related to FGM/C and the gaps that exist in their knowledge and training about FGM/C. Participants shared their own recommendations about how information about FGM/C could be incorporated into their systems and professions.

### **Listening Sessions with Community Members**

From October 2024 through December 2024, the Advisory Committee partnered with community-based organizations to host listening sessions with community members. The goal of these listening sessions was to hear from community members who have been or may be impacted by FGM/C; to further understand how community members engage with systems and resources related to FGM/C; and to learn whether, and in what way, community members would like to receive information and resources related to FGM/C.

The Advisory Committee partnered with Sauti Yetu, African Services Committee, and Arab American Family Support Center to conduct three separate listening sessions. Two sessions were conducted in-person and one session was conducted virtually. In total, 21 community members participated in the listening sessions. Community members received compensation for their participation and food and beverages were available at the in-person listening sessions. Interpretation and translated materials were offered or available to participants during listening sessions.

### **2024 Advisory Committee Meetings**

In 2024, the Advisory Committee held two meetings of the whole committee:

- On **July 9, 2024**, the Advisory Committee met to discuss findings and recommendations from the system partners listening sessions. Advisory Committee members also discussed hosting listening sessions with community members to learn more about what FGM/C prevention and intervention strategies may be effective.
- On **December 19, 2024**, the Advisory Committee met to discuss and finalize policy recommendations as described in Local Law 109 of 2021. The policy recommendations discussed were based on findings from the Advisory Committee's 2023 landscape analysis and 2024 listening sessions. Following feedback from the Advisory Committee, policy recommendations were finalized and will be incorporated into a report that the Advisory Committee intends to release in 2025.

### **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 2024, 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**, Deputy Commissioner of Community Initiatives and 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 until September 2024

- **Melissa Eger**, Chief of the Domestic Violence Department, New York City Police Department until November 2024
- **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
- **Katherine LaGuardia**, Special Advisor at the New York City 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 Ambulatory Care, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center
- **Melissa Paquette**, Chief Legal Officer 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
- **Jessamy Rahman-Klapper**, Director of Programs at Pillars of Peace until July 2024
- **Jaana Rehnstrom**, Mayoral Appointee, Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Founder of the Kota Alliance
- **Danny Salim**, Deputy Director of Preventative Services at the Arab-American Family Support Center
- **Arrizu Sirjani**, Senior 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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