

# REPLACE 2

Working to eradicate  
FGM across the EU



**Issue 1: 15th July 2013**

## Kick off week

Partner organisations from the six European Member States comprising REPLACE 2 gathered at Coventry University on April 22-26 for the official kick off to the project to share knowledge and training expertise with each other. The meeting allowed all partners to share best practice with one another in moving forward with community engagement for the first phase of the project.

## Other News

REPLACE 2 project website launched July 2013. This contains the latest news regarding the project and will be a valuable resource for all those interested in ending FGM. Click here: [www.replacefgm2.eu](http://www.replacefgm2.eu)

Prof Hazel Barrett interviewed about FGM for the London Evening Standard on 14 June: European girls brought to 'lax' Britain for FGM. Article Available from <http://www.questia.com/library/1P2-34781471/european-girls-brought-to-lax-britain-for-fgm>

Prof Hazel Barrett wrote an article entitled 'UK letting down victims of female genital mutilation on FGM' for the online magazine The Conversation, which was published on 13/06/2013. Read article here: <http://theconversation.com/uk-letting-down-victims-of-female-genital-mutilation-14867>

REPLACE 2 has been featured in The Times Higher Education (9/06/2013) article 'Deliverance from evil' bringing to light the aims and focus of the multidisciplinary REPLACE 2 team.

Dr. Katherine Brown spoke on the BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Clive Eakin radio show on Friday, April 26 to discuss the issue of FGM affected communities in the EU and the aims of the REPLACE 2 project. Dr Brown discussed the importance of working together with communities to develop techniques and strategies that are appropriate and feasible to build change within affected communities.

The **REPLACE 2** is a two year project being funded by the European Commission. This project follows from the successful completion of REPLACE 1 in 2011. REPLACE 2 is the collaboration of six European countries, England (Coventry University and FORWARD UK), the Netherlands (FSAN), Italy (CESIE), Portugal (APF), Spain (Gabinet) and Belgium (Ghent University). REPLACE 2 will implement and evaluate the behaviour change and community-based Toolkit developed by REPLACE 1. Partners will work directly with FGM affected communities in the EU to understand the barriers to behaviour change and therefore develop tailored interventions which community groups and NGOs can utilise in future efforts to bring about the end of FGM in the EU and beyond.

## Current Activities

CESIE, Gabinet, and APF are currently involved in community engagement with the Senegalese, Gambian and Guinea Bissauan communities. Through the process of engagement, partners are forging links with these communities and assessing their readiness to change. This process also facilitates the recruitment of community-based researchers. Community-based researchers will work with these partners in order to understand needs and experiences of these communities and, more importantly, help to identify the particular barriers to change in these communities. Community researchers are central to the REPLACE methodology, in that they develop our knowledge of the specific belief systems associated with particular communities, they breakdown the conventional power relations between the researcher and the researched, they allow communities to 'take ownership' of the project and they are key in terms of promoting change within a community.

FORWARD and FSAN are continuing with community engagement and using the results from REPLACE 1 to inform what behaviours they will be targeting for the intervention.

## Relevant Publications

Brown, K., Beecham, D. and Barrett, H. (2013) The Applicability of Behaviour Change in Intervention Programmes targeted at ending Female Genital Mutilation in the EU: Integrating Social Cognitive and Community level Approaches. *Obstetrics and Gynecology International*. Available Online: <http://www.hindawi.com/journals>

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY (2013) Female genital mutilation in the European Union and Croatia.

Johansen, E., Diop, N., Laverack, G. and Leye, E. (2013) What works and what does not: A discussion of popular approaches for the abandonment of female genital mutilation. *Obstetrics and Gynecology International*. Available Online: <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/ogj/2013/348248/>

Lien, I. and Schultz, J. (2013) Internalizing knowledge and changing attitudes to female genital cutting/mutilation. *Obstetrics and Gynecology International*. Available Online: <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/ogj/2013/467028/>

Gele, A., Bø, B. and Sundby, J. (2013) Attitudes towards female circumcision among men and women in two districts in Somalia: Is it time to rethink our eradication strategy in Somalia? *Obstetrics and Gynecology International*. Available Online: <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/ogj/2013/312734/>

## Upcoming events

Dr. David Beecham to speak on FGM and its effects on Leister Kohinoor Radio station on 5 September 2013.

Coventry University to host conference in April 2014 at the Coventry University London Campus . Please visit the website for updates and further information.

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