



16 Days of Activism – 25 November to 10 December 2016

## DAY 1. 25 NOVEMBER, 2016

### FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

\* FGM is the purposeful destruction of women and girls sexual organs for non-medical reasons. It is practised globally in 29 countries in Africa, some countries in the Middle East and in Asia. Due to immigration, FGM has spread to Western countries such as the UK, USA, Europe and Australia. Girls residing in Australia are at risk of FGM.

\* An estimated 83,000 women and girls living in Australia have been subjected to FGM and some 6,500 girls are thought to be at immediate risk (refer to [www.nofgmoz.com](http://www.nofgmoz.com)). There are also 1100 girls born every year who may be in danger of being subjected to FGM – that is, 3 girls born every day in Australia who are at risk of significant harm.

\* FGM in Australia is a criminal offence and our laws prohibit this practice in Australia as well as the removal of girls from Australia to have the procedure performed overseas.

\* On 12 November 2015 two women (one a 38 year old mother of 4 girls and a retired midwife, 72) were found guilty on two counts of mutilating the clitorises of the 38 year olds two eldest daughters when they were seven and six. They received a sentence of home detention.

\* A religious leader of the Sydney Shia Muslim sect was also found guilty of being an accessory after the fact. He was sentenced to a minimum of 11 months' jail and a maximum of 15 months for being an accessory after the fact.

\* 16 September 2015, launch of an Aussie FGM hotline. Call **1800 522 707** if you are in danger of FGM or if you know a girl in danger of FGM.

For international data see <https://zontasaysno.com>



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