

MEDICALISATION IS...

28TOOMANY

# FGM END IT. DON'T MEDICALISE IT



...A THREAT TO THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OF WOMEN & GIRLS



...A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION



...A BREACH OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS



...ABSENT OF INFORMED CONSENT



...A FORM OF CHILD ABUSE

**“FGM changes lives. It changed mine when I was six years old and causes lifelong pain and difficulty whether or not it is medicalised. We must end all FGM.”**  
**Hibo Wardere**  
Author and FGM Survivor

**“It has been recognized that stopping the medicalization of FGM is an essential component of the holistic, human-rights-based approach towards the elimination of the practice: when communities see that health-care providers have taken a stand in favour of the abandonment of the procedure and have refrained from performing it, this will foster local debate & questioning of the practice.”**  
**World Health Organisation (2016)**

## UNDERSTANDING MEDICALISATION

- Providing access to medical equipment or training
- Healthcare providers performing FGM on girls or women
- Girls or women having FGM performed in a healthcare facility
- Replacing severe forms of FGM with more symbolic types of cutting
- Transporting girls to health facilities overseas
- Procedures to re-establish FGM after women have given birth (known as reinfibulation)

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