

FLOURISH- COMMUNITIES COLLABORATING TO ADDRESS FGM/C

MEDIA STATEMENT AND POLICY

Overview

Flourish, a collaborative, survivor-centered program at Women's Health in Women's Hands Community Health Center undertakes an intersectional feminist approach to addressing FGM/C (Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting). Driven by the narratives, personal agency, and self definition of survivors at intersecting identities and with diverse and diverging experiences and needs.

Statement of Principle

We, our partners, and collaborators work with, advocate alongside and amplify the voices of those who have survived/experienced FGM and affirm their (our) right to:

- Determination of healthcare priorities
- Reclamation of narratives surrounding FGM/C, the cultures, communities and experiences of survivors
- Name experiences with consent and control
- Privacy and boundaries
- Culturally safe and competent service delivery
- Culturally competent, intersectional and survivor centered media coverage
- Responsible reporting on the experiences of those who survive FGM
- Freedom from violence, access to healing and freedom from oppression
- Agency in determining reproductive destinies
- Self determination of gender identity and sexual orientation

Scope & Commitments

This policy applies to all program activities, media content, social media posts, journalistic partnerships, interviews, and collaborations.

In alignment with Women's Health in Women's Hands longstanding commitment to anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice, we affirm a commitment to:

- Cross sectoral, interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to addressing FGM/C
- A rejection of culturally essentialist lenses and practices that fail to position FGM/C within the global spectrum of gender-based violence.
- An explicit rejection of Islamophobia, anti-Black racism, misogyny, transphobia, ableism, saniesm, homophobia, racism, colonial violence, classism and discrimination based on

status, which intersect to create the conditions that facilitate FGM/C and the ongoing injustice faced by survivors.

- An explicit awareness of how these systemic, interpersonal and internalized shape the narratives surrounding FGM/C.
- Respect for the language chosen by those who experience/survive FGM/C to name their experiences. This extends to identifying as a survivor or otherwise, and naming the practice as mutilation, circumcision or otherwise.
- Using an intersectional approach to service delivery, knowledge production, media content and beyond - which rejects the conditions and narratives that force survivors to trade in one form of violence for another.
- Creating equitable access and meaningful inclusion for survivors in all services, spaces, platforms and partnerships.
- To produce accessible programming, tools, documents, knowledge and resources through a disability-justice lens.
- Multilingual services, cultural competency and safety for all stakeholders and community members.
- Solidarity with, and respect for the agency of Indigenous communities and their right to self determination and freedom from violence.
- Accountability to survivors and the most marginalized members of our communities.