

## **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.