

The Act prohibiting female genital mutilation

Section 1. Any person who wilfully performs an operation on a woman's genitalia that damages the genitalia or inflicts upon them permanent changes shall be liable to punishment for female genital mutilation. The penalty is imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, but not exceeding six years if the operation has resulted in sickness or incapacity to work of more than two weeks' duration, or if an incurable blemish, flaw or injury has been caused, and not exceeding eight years if the operation has resulted in death or serious injury to body or health. Accomplices shall be liable to the same penalty.

Reconstruction of female genital mutilation shall be punishable as stated in the first paragraph.

Consent shall not justify exemption from punishment.

Section 2. Professionals and persons employed in child care centres, the child welfare service, the health and social welfare service, schools, day care facilities for schoolchildren, and religious communities who wilfully fail to seek to avert, by formal complaint or in another manner, female genital mutilation, cf. section 1, shall be liable to fines or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year. The same applies to elders or religious leaders of a religious community. The duty to avert such an act shall apply regardless of any duty of confidentiality. Failure to do so is not punishable if the female genital mutilation is not completed or does not constitute a punishable attempt.

Added by the Act of 28 May 2004 No. 33 (in force from 1 September 2004 in accordance with the Decree of 28 May 2004 No. 794).

Section 3. The Act comes into force from such time as the King decides.

| Amended by the Act of 28 May 2004 No. 33 (in force from 1 September 2004 in accordance with the [Royal Decree](#) of 28 May 2004 No. 794), whereby the section number was amended from section 2.