

African Women in Scotland Against FGM Seminar

'The cost of FGM on human and economic development and the role of diaspora communities in combating FGM'

**Methodist Church
25 Nicolson Square Edinburgh, EH8 9BX
Saturday 12 Sept 2015**

NB: Closing Date for Booking: [7 September 2015](#)



Keynote speaker: Agnes Pareyio

"Protecting girls at risk and ending FGM in Kenya"

Agnes Pareyio is a well known Kenyan Maasai woman who has campaigned for the rights of girls and against FGM since she was a teenager. She founded Tasaru Centre for girls who escape from their families because of FGM. Tasaru organizes Alternative Rites of passage and family Reconciliation. Agnes was named UN in Kenya Person of the Year in 2005.

***FREE** to people from practicing communities but a registration form (attached) must be completed and a ticket booked in advance.

*** Limited Tickets – Book Early**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) also known as cutting or circumcision is a gender based harmful traditional practice subjected to women and girls in some communities and countries in Africa, Middle East, South Asia, Malaysia and in countries where people from these countries have migrated to. It is a rite of passage initiation which has a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of women and girls at different stages of their life cycle. It is based on socially and culturally constructed values and beliefs about marriage, virginity, respect, honour and family status in community. It is a violation of human rights of women and girls and it is closely related to other harmful practices such as child brides, forced marriage, dowry and violence against women.

KWISA believes that FGM cannot be eradicated in Scotland or any western country without stopping it at the source. 'World Health organization (WHO) estimates based on the most recent prevalence data indicate that 91,5 million girls and women above 9 years old in Africa are currently living with the consequences of female genital mutilation. There are an estimated 3 million girls in Africa at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation every year'. It is therefore, imperative that Africans play a key role in eradication of all forms of FGM.

The first step taken by the African Women against FGM initiative was to increase the participation of African women in discussions and campaigns against FGM in Scotland. KWISA has engaged with over 100 women and girls from 14 African

Countries during the last three years, and established links with FGM campaigns in other countries. The seminars in September 2014 and February 2015, drew attention to the importance of addressing all types of FGM including the least known types such as pulling and manipulation which affect mental health and undermine women's right to their lives and bodies. The next step is about engaging men, young people and faith/community leaders in order to broaden our scope and ownership of the campaign.

Aim of the Seminar

Building on the success of the previous FGM seminars, this seminar addresses issues that are often overlooked in campaigns against FGM: 'The cost of FGM on human and economic development and the role of diaspora communities in combating FGM'. This will be an exploration of the reasons why FGM persists in spite of increased awareness of its harmful effects and existence of legal measures in many countries.

The seminar will also raise awareness of the role Diaspora communities play in international development and in addressing critical issues such as FGM that affect their people at home and abroad. The seminar also seeks to influence policies and change mindsets. This will be done through a story telling format to share information about the successes and how to overcome challenges.

Themes of the Seminar:

Protecting girls at risk and ending FGM in Kenya:

The keynote speaker is a well know anti FGM campaigner Kenyan woman called Agnes Pareyio who will speak about her experience in campaigning against FGM and protecting girls at risk of FGM.

Lessons from Kenya:

What lessons can we learn from Kenya, one of the African countries where prevalence rate of FGM has steadily fallen in recent years?

Role of diaspora communities: 'Why I will not get my daughter cut?

The seminar will hear from men and women from practicing communities living in Scotland who have vowed to protect their girls in spite of pressure to follow traditions customs of their people. They will speak on the topic, 'Why I will not get my daughter cut?

Engaging the diaspora communities:

It is now accepted that social change must involve the people affected and that top down model imposed by those in power are not effective tools for change. The seminar is an opportunity for participants to learn from the experiences of people who are directly affected by FGM and a chance to explore how communities can be empowered to take action against FGM.

PROGRAMME 09:30 – 16:30

1) Morning session:

- Arrival and Registration
- Welcome and introduction
- The impact of the cost of FGM on Development
- Keynote speech: “Protecting girls at risk and ending FGM in Kenya”
- Reflection - Buzz groups
- Q&A
- DVD

2) **LUNCH** **12:30**

3) **Afternoon Session:** **13:15**

Voices from Diaspora communities in Scotland: *‘Why I will not get my daughter cut’.*

Workshops:

Workshop 1: Women from practicing communities

Workshop 2: Men from practicing community

Workshop 3: Policy makers and service providers

Workshop 4: Aunt Agnes & Young people (over 16) in conversation**

The workshops 1, 2, 3 will explore the ‘next steps’. What are the benefits of actively engaging these communities and what are the barriers? How do we empower people from practicing communities to take active ownership and leadership of activities related to FGM and other harmful traditional practices.

Workshop 4: this workshop will be a conversation between Agnes Pareyio and young people about growing up and the rites of passage into adulthood.

- **Story Teller**
- **Reports from workshops**
- **Summary: Next step**
- **Votes of thanks**

4) **Close** **16:30**

SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP LEADERS:

Agnes Pareyio

Mukami McCrum

Adeola Eribake

Chimezie Umeh

Pauline Nairn

Priscilla Kimani

Elnayal Elrawa

Esther Kamonji Gillian Wilson

Jerusalem Barnabas

Judy Wasige

Lesley Boal

Mara Menzies

Mary Mbae

Nabirye Balyjusa

Sanaa Alsabag

Wura Ogunrotimi

Fatou Baldeh

Twimukye Mushaka

WHO CAN ATTEND:

The seminar is targeted at people from practicing communities, policy makers, service providers, law enforcement officers and voluntary organisations.

- Men, Women and young people from practicing communities
- Health Professionals
- Social Workers
- Community and Social workers
- Educationists
- Police
- Government and local authority officers
- Voluntary sector activists

FEES:

The price of a ticket is **£45 for service providers and policy makers**

NB: The Seminar is **FREE*** to members of practicing communities but a **NO SHOW** fee (£45) will be charged for failure to turn up after booking a place.

Closing date for Booking: 7 September 2015

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the attached Registration and return by email (see below)

TICKETS: Tickets are available via Eventbrite link on the attached Registration Form.

CONTACT US:

If you have any question or require more information, please contact us:

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European Year
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