



NEWSLETTER JUNE – JULY 2009

This is the END FGM Campaign Team's first of a series of regular bi-monthly newsletters which will help keep everyone informed and up to date on the campaign and the developments on FGM at EU level. For any suggestions, please email phumpal@amnesty.ie.

➤ EU INSTITUTIONS

European Parliament

Thank you to the 12 partner organizations and the 2 members of the Advisory Committee for joining the training and meeting with your MEPs. We would like to remind the partners to send a **thank you letter to your MEPs recapitulating the agreed commitments**. Once we have all your reports from meetings with the MEPs we will send you a summary of agreed commitments. The team will be following on the commitments in autumn.

Following Swedish MEP Eva Britt Svensson's suggestion to present an expert for the nomination to the Gender Institute, we have sent Dr. Els Leye's CV and recommended her for the nomination. We will keep you posted on the outcome of this process.

The new European Parliament has officially started. The new President of the EP is 69-year old former Prime Minister of Poland, Jerzy Buzek. He is from the EPP party (conservative) and will hold the position for 2.5 years.

Swedish Presidency of the EU

Sweden's Presidency of the European Union commenced on 1 July. One of the tasks of the new Presidency will be adoption of the Stockholm Programme.

The Stockholm Programme will define the framework for EU police and customs cooperation, rescue services, criminal and civil law cooperation, asylum, migration and visa policy for the period 2010–2014. Negotiations between Member States have started and the final document will be adopted on 10th December 2009. More info on the Stockholm Programme available [here](#).

Demands regarding FGM have been integrated in the Amnesty International briefing presented to the Swedish Presidency in relation to the Stockholm Programme. In particular we are calling for a coordinated and systematic response to the issue of female genital mutilation in the EU through the development of a core of common standards in criminal matters, in access to justice, in police cooperation and in the single asylum procedures.

Read the Amnesty International briefing [here](#).

Fundamental Rights Agency

The Campaign Team wrote to the Fundamental Rights Agency calling on them to collect data on FGM in their work on children's rights and on intersectional discrimination. Following this, the Campaign Team has been invited to take part in a stakeholder consultation meeting on multiple and intersectional discrimination on grounds of gender, age and ethnic origin in the area of health care in the EU Member States. The meeting will take place on 5-6 October 2009. **Please send us any information and documentation related to good practices or any suggestion for areas to be researched by 15 September 2009.**

➤ **EVENTS**

25 November 2009

As discussed in the last meeting, the strategy will not be launched on the 25th November as it clashes with an international conference that the Dutch government is hosting on FGM in Europe and Africa. Instead the campaign will issue a press release that partners will be sending to their national media contacts highlighting three actions to be taken by EU governments. This will be further discussed at the meeting in Lisbon.

Partner Meeting #2: Lisbon

The next meeting of Partners is planned in Lisbon thanks to the APF (Family Planning Association) on **3-4 October 2009**. We will contact the partners in August to organise flights and accommodation. One day will be spent in planning for the launch of the strategy in February or March 2010 (to be confirmed) and the press release on the 25 November 2009. The second day will be devoted to a media training.

➤ **MEDIA and COMMUNICATIONS**

Campaign Badge

The campaign badge (see top of first page) which will be used by all partners and the campaign team has been well received by all. We are getting this badge printed in form of stickers. These stickers will be posted to all partners along with the guidelines on how to use the stickers. You should receive the stickers in first week of August.

Campaign Website

The first phase of the END FGM website is near completion. The final changes are being discussed. We hope to have the website live and running by September.

Media Hit

We sent a letter to editor for European Voice, a weekly newspaper read mostly by people working in EU raising the opportunities for the Swedish Presidency to raise the issue of FGM in the Stockholm Programme. You can read the letter [here](#).

➤ STAFF NEWS

We are excited to announce the appointment of 2 new staff persons who will join the team in August. The **part-time administrator** position will be taken up by Nadja Dumann. She is from Germany and has worked in various roles including as a volunteer with AI Belgium (Francophone). She speaks 5 languages and is well travelled. She went to Guatemala for election monitoring and has worked in the Immigrants section of the Canadian Embassy in Berlin. Nadja will start on 3 August. She will be organising flights and accommodation and other administrative tasks for the campaign.

For the **Advocacy Officer** position, we will be joined by Katja Svensson. Katja is Swedish and has worked as a consultant on policy regarding gender issues. She has previously worked with the Swedish Foreign Ministry and the European Commission. Katja has a dog called 'Sita' (which is the name of a Hindu goddess)! Katja will be joining from 17 August. She will be liaising with the EU institutions and will further develop the strategy.

Christine is away on holidays from 17 July to 29 July. If there is any urgency during this period, please contact Prerna at +322 548 2776 or at +3531 863 8300 (between 20-24 July) or email phumpal@amnesty.ie.

➤ TO DO RECAP FOR PARTNERS:

- Send thank you letter to the MEPs you met.
 - Send notes from your meetings with MEPs to Prerna at phumpal@amnesty.ie by **22 July**.
 - Please send your monthly report on campaign activities for June-July to Prerna by **4 August**.
 - Send us your suggestions or good practices on research related to FGM by **15 September**.
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Enjoy the summer!