

## **Concept note BLOG CoP**

**April 2021**

### **Background**

The goal of the CoP is the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the promotion of the well-being and human rights of women and girls. This Community of practice enables professionals and activists to exchange within the frame of mutual learning and to improve their actions of prevention, advocacy, and care for concerned persons, as well as related policies.

The [CoP Charter](#) offers general orientations to the CoP FGM and ensures both the respect of common norms and the diversity of the members and their approaches. It recognizes FGM as a complex topic. The eradication of the practice requires sharing of good practices and constructive critical thinking.

A new website for the Community of Practice was set up in 2020 and includes information on all topics discussed within thematic discussions, as well as an FGM expert map, a news section, and interviews with CoP members. A blog section will be implemented in early the second quarter of 2021.

In the 2021 workplan of the CoP, GAMS identified the following objectives (among others) to which the blog responds:

- ➔ Increase the qualitative participation of members within the Community.
- ➔ Bring forward case-studies and experiences by individual members.
- ➔ Make the collective knowledge created through the CoP accessible to a wider public and to policy makers, through easily accessible content on the CoP website.

### **The aim of the Blog space**

The blog aims to provide a space for individual members to share their knowledge, experiences, opinions, and best practices. The articles published on the blog section should meet the general objectives of the CoP and respect the CoP Charter.

### **What kind of content will be published on the CoP Blog?**

- New and interesting findings on FGM, particularly in an area currently or previously addressed within the CoP thematic discussions<sup>1</sup>
- High-lights of a programme or project implemented by the member or a partner organization, in-depth experiences, and best-practices from such programmes/projects.
- Opinion pieces by CoP members on issues around FGM, including personal observations and discussions of their own approaches or of current debates in the field.
- Interviews with FGM experts, written by CoP members about other FGM experts (CoP members or not)
- Personal testimonials and experiences, artistic work (fiction or poems..) addressing FGM.

All submissions to the blog must relate to prevention of Female genital mutilation or care of survivors and aim to improve practice by sharing knowledge, best-practice or reflection.

All submissions must be in line with [the CoP Charter](#).

Submissions can relate to any specific community or country where FGM is prevalent.

### **Who can propose content for the CoP blog?**

Any member (or moderator) of the Community of Practice.

### **Author guidelines**

- **Language:** Submissions can be made in English or French. Translation in the other language (French or English) will be provided by the CoP moderation team.
- **Editing:** The moderation team may edit texts (grammatical, stylistic) or shorten them if necessary.
- **Length:** Articles should ideally be between 500 and 1500 words.
- **Headings:** Articles should include a title and if possible sub-titles to break up the text
- **References:** Please include references if you are referring to research (the CoP uses APA referencing, <https://www.mendeley.com/guides/apa-citation-guide>)

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<sup>1</sup> Until April 2021, thematic discussions have dealt with: Law, Religion, Mental health, Cross-border FGM, FGM in humanitarian and crisis contexts, Economics, Alternative rites of passage, Mainstreaming FGM, Medicalisation of FGM, Conversion of cutters and Type IV FGM.



- **Illustration:** The author can propose a photo or other image to illustrate the text. If they don't, the CoP moderation team will provide an illustration.

#### **How to submit a post for the CoP blog:**

- Members can either
  - o answer to a call for submission on a specific topic
  - or
  - o propose a text at any time on a topic of their choice
- Send a short description of the article to the CoP moderators ([cop.mgf@gmail.com](mailto:cop.mgf@gmail.com)) stating the subject of the post, the main points it will make, any research or project that will be presented. Or the full article if it is already written.
- Specify the time needed for the draft (if no call with a specific deadline was made).

The CoP moderator team are free to accept, reject or propose changes to scripts. The article will be published on the CoP website by the moderators according to the internal planning.