



United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Discriminations Against Women (CEDAW)

Informal public meeting with NGOs – Oral statement

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Eighth and ninth periodic review of Uganda during the 81st Session

Orator: Sr. Leonie KINDIKI

Franciscans International, John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre, the Bright Doves of St. Francis, Caritas Kampala and the Ugandan Joint Christian Council would like to draw the attention of Committee members on women victims of genital mutilation. The cultural weight of Female Genital Mutilation as a rite of passage into adulthood, still overrides the implementation of the 2010 Act prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation, especially in Eastern Uganda. According to our field study in the Bukwo District in June and December 2021, some women are still not aware of the 2010 legislation. Moreover, the criminalization of Female Genital Mutilation has led to an increase in mutilations performed in remote locations, such as bushes, which further endangers the health of girls and women. To date, a prevailing social acceptance of the practice, combined with corruption, has led to many mutilation crimes going unpunished. In accordance with the Convention and the CEDAW General Recommendation No. 14, a better implementation of sanctions against perpetrators must be accompanied by a full-fledged inclusive and preventive approach. This should consider the phenomenon as a global social problem, which requires a clear intensification of awareness-raising campaigns as well as considering the economic and social status of excision practitioners.

I thank you.

