

You recently had a conversation on female circumcision with the doctor or nurse from the youth health care team, either at the child health centre or at the GGD (Municipal Health Authority).

This folder in your own language allows you to read the information provided during that meeting at your leisure, and to discuss this with your family, relatives or friends.

Circumcision affects over 130 million girls and women all over the world. It is carried out in 28 countries in Africa and among population groups in several countries in Asia and the Middle East.

For example, in Somalia, Djibouti and North Sudan almost all girls are circumcised - often with the most drastic form of circumcision, which is infibulation or Pharaonic circumcision. Circumcision is usually carried out on young girls. The exact age varies per country, but circumcision generally takes place before the first menstruation. Various reasons are given for female circumcision. For instance, it is part of the cultural standards and values, it protects virginity, it increases marriage opportunities, it gives status, or it belongs to the Islamic faith.

The WHO has advised all its medical and paramedical staff to refuse to perform female circumcision and to refuse to make the facilities of health institutes available for female circumcision.

People all over the world are saying **No** to female circumcision and great efforts are being made to put a stop to this practice.

SAY NO TO THE CIRCUMCISION OF YOUR DAUGHTER BECAUSE:

- It is extremely painful without anaesthetic;
- It is a shocking experience;
- It may cause excessive blood loss;
- There is a risk of infection;
- There is a risk of death;
- Gynaecological infections may cause infertility;

- It hinders sexual relations (the wedding night);
- Giving birth is more difficult;
- It may cause chronic abdominal pain;
- It may cause urinary tract infections or other urinary problems;
- It may cause menstrual problems;
- Female circumcision is not compulsory according to the Islamic or Christian faith.

It is banned in the Netherlands

DUTCH LAW

In the Netherlands female circumcision has been banned by law since 1993.

This applies to all forms of female circumcision:

- Incision, a prick or cut in the clitoris;
- Clitoridectomy, the removal of the clitoris;
- Excision, the removal of the clitoris and all or part of the labia minora (inner labia);
- Infibulation, the removal of the clitoris, labia minora and part of the labia majora (outer labia).

Anyone who permits or performs female circumcision is liable to prosecution.

The penalty is imprisonment.

- You are not allowed to assist with circumcision.
- You are not allowed to provide arrangements or facilities for circumcision.
- You are not allowed to offer a payment or reward for circumcision.
- You are not allowed to give an order for circumcision.

In the Netherlands female circumcision is illegal, as every child has a right to protection and consequently to health protection. Female circumcision is harmful to the health of a girl.

More information can be obtained from:

Pharos focal point for female circumcision, available by telephone to answer questions on weekdays from 09.00 noon to 01.00 p.m.

Telephone: 030-2349800

FSAN, available by telephone to provide information on Monday and Thursday from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Telephone: 020-4861628

E-mail: info@fsan.nl or z.naleie@fsan.nl

For questions or help, you can contact:

GGD Noord- en Oost-Gelderland: T 088 443 3200.

Engels



**Female circumcision
My parents say No**