

## Counselling

### FEM Süd

Health centre for women in the

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### Bright Future

Information Centre for women's health and FGM

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e-mail: [afrikanisc.frauenorganisation@chello.at](mailto:afrikanisc.frauenorganisation@chello.at)

web: [www.african-women.org](http://www.african-women.org)

### Orient Express

Information Centre for women

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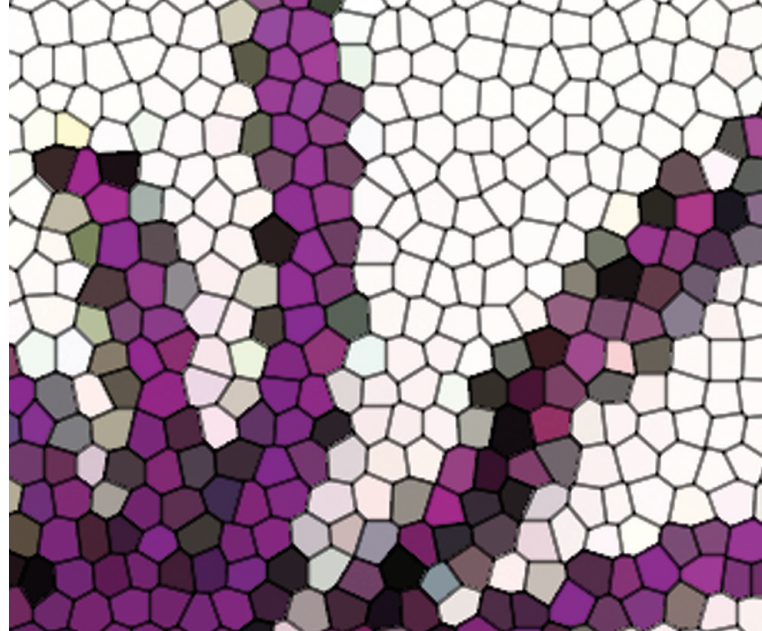
web: [www.orientexpress-wien.com](http://www.orientexpress-wien.com)

**Ombudsoffice** for Children and Youths and Health Centres for Women in the provinces.

co-operation partners:



Impressum: MedieninhaberIn, HerausgeberIn und für den Inhalt verantwortlich:  
Österreichische Plattform gegen weibliche Genitalverstümmelung, Parlament,  
1017 Wien, [www.stopfgm.net](http://www.stopfgm.net), Layout: Lisa Fuchs, Druck: Friedrich VDV.



**FGM** Female Genital Mutilation



[www.stopfgm.net](http://www.stopfgm.net)  
Austrian platform against  
female genital mutilation

**FGM** (*Female Genital Mutilation*) stands for *genital mutilation of girls and women. It is a thousands of years old tradition which affects some 160 million women worldwide.*



FGM is exercised in large parts of Africa and many Asian countries. The main reason for it is the wrong assertion that women who are not mutilated are impure and not marriageable. Contrary to the widespread assumption there is however no religious justification – Islamic, Christian and other religious dignitaries repeatedly spoke out against FGM.

Within the last years a worldwide discussion on the harmful consequences of FGM has started. Many families, communities and states decided to let their girls grow up healthy and not to mutilate their daughters anymore.

Let us jointly protect our daughters from harm and pain to make a happy and healthy life possible for them.

## *Legal situation in Austria*

- FGM is considered grievous bodily harm and may be punished with up to 10 years imprisonment – even with acceptance of the victim!
- The offence is also chargeable if committed abroad!
- The limitation period does not start until the victim has reached the age of consent!
- Offenders and accessories are to be punished!

## *Consequences of FGM*

The mutilation is an enormous danger to the health of girls and women. Frequently inflammations, infections and perilous sepsis occur.

For the rest of their lives affected women suffer from pain whilst urinating and menstruating. Sexual intercourse is also very painful and affected women can hardly develop normal sexual sentiments. Frequently intricacies occur during deliveries, which eventually may lead to the death of mother and child.

FGM has negative mental consequences, ranging from fears to grave mental damages.

FGM is a grave, far-reaching interference to the body and psyche of girls and women.