

## Anti-violence women shelters and public health system in Italy: reality and possibilities to fight FGM and offer protection and prevention to women and girls

- **72%** of public health facilities do not know the Ministry of Health's instructions for protection and prevention of FGM
- **50%** of public health facilities declares to know little or nothing about FGM;
- Only the **50%** of public health facilities:
  - hosted at least on training on FGM, but the first was received in 2009, the last one in 2016;
  - declares to be able to use socio-linguistic mediators;
  - knows that the National Health System recognizes the de-infibulation and clitoral reconstruction in the Essential Levels of Care.
- Only **28%** of public health facilities knows that there is "some" system for collecting medical data on FGM (regional, local or structure specific) and only the 18% use one data collection system.
- Only the **22%** of public health facilities:
  - knows a medical publication on FGM.
  - has a FGM "specialized" team (teams are generally made up of gynecologist, psychologist and mediator... NOT pediatricians!). These structures declare to have attended a very low nr. of women proceeding from FGM high risk countries (the 0,1% of the estimated number of presence in Italy) and to have attended only 1/3 of them for FGM issues.
  - offers health education to women with FGM on the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of their condition or that of their daughters.
  - registered de-infibulation needs, but only one hospital tried to do clitoral reconstruction, but there is no competence to do so.
- **No** public health facility foresees an specific question on FGM in the triage, not even for women who access the maternity and gynecology department. Only 11% have a medical history application.

### *Feminist associations of women against violence can play a strategic role: HOW?*

#### 1. **Updating the Anti-violence network:**

- *training sessions and tools for women's shelters operators*

#### 2. **Empowering women:**

- *Supporting them to access to protection, legal and health rights (alphabetization on Italian Laws, welfare, civil society associations and on woman's body, health and rights + doing the process with them)*

#### 3. **Updating the welfare system:**

- *awareness raising (questionnaires, interventions in health conferences, articles)*
- *needs assesment - recommendations - advocacy*
- *training sessions and tools + prevalence data tools+ dissemination of info tools*
- *accompanying women and girls (translation, cultural mediation, VAWG indicators)*
- *network of VAWG and not fragmentation of processes*

## BEFORE

### Best practices to Empower women against Female genital mutilation, Operating for Rights and legal Efficacy



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Non c'è pace senza giustizia



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