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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (CDDH)

Female genital mutilation and forced marriage - Information on the International Conference *Policy For Progress: Ending FGM and Forced Marriage*

(organised by the UK Government in partnership
with the Council of Europe, London, 15-16 November 2018)

Introduction

1. At its 90th meeting (27-30 November 2018) the CDDH will be informed by the UK delegation and by the Secretariat on the results of the Conference "Policy for Progress: Ending FGM and Forced Marriage" (London, 15-16 November 2018).
2. The purpose of this event was to raise awareness to the *Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the need to intensify the effort to prevent and combat female genital mutilation and forced marriage in Europe*, as well as to the *Guide to good and promising practices aimed at preventing and combating female genital mutilation and forced marriage*, prepared by the CDDH.
3. This document contains a Summary Report prepared by the Secretariat as well as the Programme of the Conference.

SUMMARY REPORT PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT

1. The one and a half days Conference, held in Wembley just outside the centre of London, was organised in an excellent manner by the Home Office, which on 5 October launched an eight week campaign to tackle FGM as well as a public consultation on whether to introduce a mandatory duty for professional to report cases of forced marriage. From the UK Government's side the event was opened by Mr Sajid JAVID, Home Secretary, and it was subsequently further addressed by Ms Harriett BALDWIN, Minister of State for Africa and Minister of State for International Development, and by Ms Victoria ATKINS, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Women).

2. The Conference was attended by some 200 participants on the first day and by approximately 170 on the second day gathering expert policy makers, international and regional organisations, NGOs, members of the affected communities and survivors of FGM and forced marriage. The Council of Europe member States were represented either by their relevant ministries or by their diplomatic delegations in London. Five members of the former CDDH-MF Drafting Group attended from Belgium, Norway, Spain, Poland and the Conference of INGOs.

3. The Council of Europe was represented, at Secretariat level, by the Parliamentary Assembly which recently adopted two resolutions on *Female Genital Mutilation in Europe* and *Forced Marriage in Europe*, GREVIO as the monitoring body of the Istanbul Convention which contains specific provisions on criminalizing FGM and Forced Marriage, and the CDDH which recently published its *Guide to good and promising practices aimed at preventing and combating female genital mutilation and forced marriage* including the *Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the need to intensify the effort to prevent and combat female genital mutilation and forced marriage in Europe*.

4. The programme alternated between plenary sessions and workshops on specific topics offering plenty of opportunities to explore ways of tackling FGM and forced marriage and to network. In particular the following good practices, also included in the CDDH Guide, were presented and discussed:

- FGM and Forced Marriage Protection Orders in the UK
- FGM prosecutions in France
- Role of men in tackling FGM and forced marriage, Belgium and the UK
- Role of young people and the impact of education in tackling FGM and forced marriage, UK
- Improving the children's social care response to FGM, UK
- #StopTheMarriage / #StoppBryllupet innovative communications campaign in Norway
- Consular Co-operation Initiative (CCI) for forced marriage, UK and Netherlands
- 'Marry When You Are Ready' project – supporting Roma communities across Europe
- Creating tailored strategies to address a range of so called 'honour-based' crimes - a partnership approach to tackling harmful practices including forced marriage, UK

- FGM Information Sharing System as part of the National Health Service, UK

5. The importance of collecting data and research for measuring the true prevalence and impacts of these hidden crimes was stressed by the European Institute for Gender Equality and the United Nations Population Fund.

6. The discussions confirmed that despite differences as to their practical aspects, these violations are linked and that a FGM survivor is at high risk of entering a forced marriage. It was clear that there is a need to further develop measures and policies if FGM and forced marriage are to be eliminated in Europe. A specific area of concern raised was the protection issues associated by asylum applications from FGM and forced marriage survivors.

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POLICY FOR PROGRESS: ENDING FGM AND FORCED MARRIAGE
(Thursday 15 and Friday 16 November 2018)

THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2018

Moderator: Professor Aisha K. GiN

13.30 Guest registration

14.00 Opening by compère and introductory animation

14.05 Welcome by Minister

14.20 Speaker: Jaha Dukureh, CEO of Safe Hands for Girls

14.35 Speaker: Solicitor General

14.45 Panel discussion with Q&A: **‘How can we better measure the true prevalence and impact of these hidden crimes?’**

Panellists:

- Jurgita Peàlùrienè, European Institute for Gender Equality
- Diana Nammi, Executive Director of Iranian and Kurdish Women’s Rights Organisation
- Dr Anne-Marie Wilson, Director of 28 Too Many
- Jacinta Muteshi, Project Director for Population Council FGM/C Research Program
- Matt Jackson, UK Director of the United Nations Population Fund

15.30 Speaker: Hoda Ah, Community Outreach Project Manager

15.45 Break

16.00 Session: **Supporting victims of forced marriage**

Speakers:

- Khalida Salimi, Founder of SACH
- Anne-Marie Haitsma, Consular Affairs Division, Netherlands
- Meena Patel, Southali Black Sisters

16.45 Speaker: Minister of State for Africa and for International Development

17.00 Networking session - Opportunity to meet fellow delegates and browse stalls

18.00 Close

FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2018

Moderator: Susan Bookbinder

09.00 Guest registration

09.30 Welcome by Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability and for Women

09.45 Speaker: Fiona Coyle, Director of the End FGM European Network

10.20 Session with Q&A: **Policy, legal frameworks and good practice to end FGM and forced marriage — a European perspective**

Speakers:

- Marja Ruotanen, Director of the Committees, Parliamentary Assembly Secretariat, Council of Europe
- Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Executive Secretary of the monitoring mechanisms of the Council of Europe, Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence
- Merete Bjerregaard, Secretary of the former Drafting Group CCDH-MF of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), Council of Europe
- Margot Taeymans, Ministry of Justice, Belgium
- Toril Melander Stene, Ministry of Education, Norway
- Jurgita Peiûrienė, European Institute for Gender Equality, Programme Coordinator, Gender-based Violence

Break

11.20 Speakers: Jasvinder Sanghera, Founder of Karma Nirvana, and Matt and Zee, Karma Nirvana Survivor Ambassadors

12.00 Workshops

13.00 - Lunch

13.50 Workshops

Break

15.10 Discussion: **‘How can we empower communities and support sustainable behaviour change?’**

Speakers:

- Julia Lalla-Maharajh, Chief Executive and Founder of Orchid Project
- Faith Mwangi-Powell, Global Director for The Girl Generation
- Oumie Sissokho, The Girl Generation FGM Survivor, Ambassador

15.50 Speaker: Sarian Karim-Kamara, community advocate, campaigner and founder of Keep the Drums Lose the Knife

16.10 Event ends