

**8772/04**

**ADD 1**

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**Interinstitutional File:  
2000/0238 (CNS)**

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**LIMITE**

**ASILE 34**

**NOTE**

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from : Presidency

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No. prev.doc. : 8772/04 ASILE 34

No. Cion prop. : 10279/02 ASILE 33 + REV 1 (de, en, fr) - COM(2002) 326 final/2

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Subject : Amended proposal for a Council Directive on minimum standards on procedures  
in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status  
- Minimum common list of safe countries of origin

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Delegations will find attached the reply from the **Austrian** delegation.

**Benin: 50%**

Excision

FGM is mainly practised in the north of the Country. There is no law specifically prohibiting FGM. The Inter- African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC) has been campaigning against FGM since 1982, collaborating with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Educational materials are distributed in government- run clinics.

**Ghana: 15-30%**

Excision

FGM is most prevalent in the regions of the Upper East, Upper West and North where more than 75% of girls have reportedly undergone excision. It is also practised by migrants in the south. The practice persists despite the passing of legislation in 1994 that explicitly prohibits it. The government issued a formal declaration in 1989 against FGM and other harmful traditional practices. Section 69A of the Criminal Code makes FGM a second degree felony punishable by a fine and imprisonment. Since its enactment in 1994 two practitioners have been convicted. All levels of government have come out strongly against FGM. NGOs working against FGM include the Association of Church Development Projects (ACDEP), the Ghana Association for Women's Welfare (GAWW) and the Muslim Family and Counselling Services (MFCS). GAWW, established in 1984, is a charter member of the IAC.

**Mali: 90-94% Clitoridectomy, excision and,  
in the south of the country, infibulation**

FGM is common throughout Mali. No law specifically prohibits FGM. A number of NGOs campaign against the practice, including AMSOPT, which has educated youth and religious leaders and held sensitization programmes for excisors and their assistants. Other active organizations are the Association for Promoting the Rights of Women (APSD), the Action Committee for the Rights of Women and Children (CADEF), the National Women's Organization (NOW) and the National Chapter of the IAC. The government supports their activities. Radio Mali disseminates information on FGM and other harmful traditional practices in its Women and Development Programme.

## **Senegal: 20%**

### Excision

In 1988 a survey on FGM was carried out by ENDA (Environmental Development Action in the Third World) with support from the IAC. This study revealed that FGM is prevalent among the Muslim population and is practised most widely in the eastern region of the country, where it also affects the non- Muslim population. No law specifically prohibits FGM. The President of Senegal, Abdoul Diouf, spoke out against the practice in the mid 1980s. In 1981, Campagne Pour L'Abolition des Mutilations Sexuelles (CAMS), Campaign for Abolition of Sexual Mutilation, was formed in Paris, with Awa Thiam as the President and a branch organization Femmes Et Société (Women and Society) in Senegal. CAMS- International was later based in Senegal. The organization takes a gender perspective in addressing FGM- organizing seminars on violence against women and FGM and setting up a gender research unit on women at the University of Dakar. The Senegalese Committee on Traditional practices ( COSEPRAT), the IAC national chapter in Senegal, conducts medical research into FGM, and their activities include radio broadcasts which reach a large percentage of the population. COSEPRAT collaborates with the government.

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