

Global strategy to stop health-care providers from performing female genital mutilation

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World Health
Organization

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Note on terminology

The term “female genital mutilation” is used in this strategy as it was in the two interagency statements on female genital mutilation (WHO 1997 and WHO 2008). The word “mutilation” emphasizes the gravity of the act. Some United Nations agencies use the term “female genital mutilation/cutting” wherein the additional term “cutting” is intended to reflect the importance of using non-judgemental terminology with practising communities. Both terms emphasize the fact that the practice is a violation of girls’ and women’s human rights.



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