

This is women's business!

# FGM IN THE EU: RAISING THE VOICE OF COMMUNITIES

Focus groups in  
LUXEMBOURG

Dr. Susanna Greijer

C'est une chose de femmes !

This is women's business!

4 FOCUS GROUPS WITH COMMUNITIES FROM:  
**GUINEA BISSAU**  
AND  
**ERITREA**

C'est une chose de femmes !

This is women's business!

## GUINEA BISSAU

### The participants

- Men and Women (2 separate FG)
- Between 5 and 20 years in Luxembourg
- Have lived elsewhere in EU before
- Translation useful for the women

C'est une chose de femmes !

This is women's business!

## GUINEA BISSAU

### Highlights male FG

- The false “myth” of FGM: purity, ritual, tradition, pride
- Cultural, not religious practice
- Concerned about the psychological aspects
- Communication more important than laws
- Need for information and work “on the ground”

C'est une chose de femmes !

This is women's business!

## GUINEA BISSAU

### Highlights female FG

- More defensive, fear of judgement
- Generational divide – younger participants against
- Emphasis on education and wish to preserve “the good parts”

C'est une chose de femmes !

This is women's business!

## GUINEA BISSAU

### Comparison male / female FG

- Men more critical than women of the practice
- Agreement that it is cultural and that it is diminishing
- Agreement it does not happen in Europe
- No information in Luxembourg, no knowledge about services

*C'est une chose de femmes !*

This is women's business!

## ERITREA

### The participants

- Men and Women (2 separate FG)
- Between 0 and 5 years in Luxembourg
- Newly arrived in the EU
- Translation useful for both groups

C'est une chose de femmes !

This is women's business!

## ERITREA

### Highlights male FG

- Cultural, not religious. Not the woman's fault
- Women cannot speak about FGM with men
- Education and information are key
- Do not want it for their daughters
- Curiosity around possibility of reconstructive surgery

C'est une chose de femmes !



This is women's business!

## ERITREA

### Highlights female FG

- Interesting debate around pride vs shame
- Would not want it for their daughters
- Would like to know more about services in Luxembourg
- Very open and extremely grateful for the FG

C'est une chose de femmes !

This is women's business!

## ERITREA

### Comparison male / female FG

- Agree the practice is diminishing – but it still exists
- Agree that it would not happen in Europe
- Agree they don't want it for their daughters
- No information in Luxembourg, no knowledge about services, great need for it.

C'est une chose de femmes !

This is NOT women's business!

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Prevention** is important, and so are **services** for women who have already undergone FGM
- **Interpreters** and services should be available & female
- Discrete **information** in different **languages** necessary
- Involvement of **men** necessary
- **Talking** about it (in a safe space) is essential. Women could help each other and exchange thoughts & information.

Ceci n'est PAS une chose de femmes !