

PRESS RELEASE

GAMCOTRAP APPLAUDS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S UPHOLDING OF ANTI-FGM LAW: A LANDMARK VICTORY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Banjul, The Gambia

16th July, 2024



In a historic session, the Gambia has taken a great step to upholding the Anti-FGM Law protecting the Sexual Reproductive Health Rights of Women and Girls in the Gambia through a formidable and bold action by the National Assembly Members voting out the Amendment Act 2023. This marks a monumental victory for women's rights and wellbeing and health in The Gambia. The vote, held on 15th July 2024, concluded with an overwhelming majority in favor of maintaining the law, affirming the nation's commitment to ending Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The session, which saw heated debates and presentations, concluded with 42 votes in favor, 5 against, and 3 abstentions. This decisive outcome underscores the collective resolve to protect the rights and futures of women and girls across the nation. GAMCOTRAP appreciates those NAMS who stood up to uphold the Law that protect women and girls from female genital mutilation. Their names will be celebrated for standing up for women and girls of the Gambia.

GAMCOTRAP, extends profound gratitude to the government and all involved parties. "We commend the President for his unwavering stance on upholding the Law. His leadership has been pivotal in this achievement, ensuring the protection and empowerment of women and girls. A stance His Excellency constantly upheld any time he is consulted.

GAMCOTRAP also wishes to express our deepest appreciation to our partners, stakeholders, grassroots people and international allies. Your relentless advocacy, support, solidarity and dedication have been instrumental in this success. To our international partners, your technical and financial assistance has been crucial in driving this movement forward."

The outcome of this vote is a testament to the strength of collective advocacy and the importance of safeguarding human rights. GAMCOTRAP reaffirms its commitment to continue working towards a society where the rights of women and girls are safeguarded, unequivocally protected and respected.

"As we celebrate this significant milestone, we pray that NEVER AGAIN will the rights of women be a subject to regressive debate in this country. This victory symbolizes hope and a call to action for ongoing advocacy and protection of women's rights.

Thank you