



# PRESS RELEASE

F86F+HXJ Bakau KMC  
P.O. Box 2990 Serrekunda The Gambia.

MAY, 2025

## **GAMCOTRAP ENGAGES KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN JARRA SOMA TO UPHOLD ANTI-FGM LAW AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF THE GIRL CHILD**

In Jarra Soma, Lower River Region As part of ongoing efforts to protect girls from harmful traditional practices, the Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (GAMCOTRAP), with generous support from the Girls Opportunity Alliance, convened a 3-day community engagement forum in Jarra Soma focused on upholding the Anti-Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) law and safeguarding the rights of the girl child.

The activity aimed to support adolescent girls by creating an enabling environment where their health, dignity, and legal rights are respected and protected. In line with this goal, the initiative brought together diverse stakeholders including community and religious leaders, women and youths to foster collective responsibility in ending FGM and other harmful practices affecting the Health of women and children.

GAMCOTRAP emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration to protecting the rights of women and girls. This can only be achieved through working together as a community, as leaders, and as duty-bearers. The gathering was a critical step in uniting voices and actions to ensure the Anti-FGM law is upheld and the rights of girls are fully protected and respected.



**EMAIL**  
[info@gamcotrap.org](mailto:info@gamcotrap.org)



**WEBSITE**  
[www.gamcotrap.org](http://www.gamcotrap.org)

The engagement provided a platform for participants to deepen understanding of the **Women's (Amendment) Act 2015**, which prohibits FGM in The Gambia, reflect on the social, legal, and health consequences of FGM and discuss the role of each sector in preventing violations and promoting community-based solutions.

Participants expressed strong commitment to protecting girls from FGM and other rights violations, noting that change must come from within the community supported by law, advocacy, and education.

This activity underscores GAMCOTRAP's ongoing mission to empower girls and women through education, advocacy, and law enforcement partnerships. The organization extends sincere gratitude to the **Girls Opportunity Alliance** for supporting this critical initiative in the Lower River Region.



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