



# PRESS RELEASE

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P.O. Box 2990 Serrekunda The Gambia.

## GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT ON THE GAMBIA ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FGM AS ANTI-FGM LAW FACES THREAT IN THE GAMBIA'S HIGH COURT



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On the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), The Gambia has come under intense global scrutiny as discussions emerge about the potential repeal of its landmark Anti-FGM law. This law, the result of over three decades of relentless advocacy by Gambian organizations like GAMCOTRAP, represents a critical safeguard for the rights, health, and dignity of women and girls.

The Gambian case has drawn worldwide attention as it highlights the fragility of legal protections for women and girls. Repealing the Anti-FGM law would not only undermine years of progress in combating harmful traditional practices but also signal a dangerous setback for human rights, with potential ripple effects beyond The Gambia's borders. The urgency of the matter cannot be overstated, thousands of girl children remain at risk, and the international community and interested parties are watching closely. Immediate and decisive actions are needed to ensure that the rights of women and girls are not eroded and that over thirty years of relentless advocacy does not go in vain. The Government of the Gambia has committed to safeguard and protect the rights of women and girls and this is a test to this.

### **Ways Forward:**

- 1. Defend Existing Laws:** The Anti-FGM legislation must be upheld to protect women and girls from harmful practices.
- 2. Strengthen Community Awareness:** Nationwide education campaigns are essential to challenge cultural norms that perpetuate FGM.
- 3. Support Advocacy Organizations:** Sustained support for groups like GAMCOTRAP ensures continued protection and empowerment of women and girls.
- 4. Mobilize Global Solidarity:** International partners must stand with The Gambia to reinforce commitments to human rights and gender equality.



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The world is watching. The Gambian government and society face a choice, either to safeguard decades of progress in women's and girls' rights or risk a reversal that could have far-reaching consequences. The fight against FGM is ongoing, and the urgency to act has never been greater.

GAMCOTRAP is calling on all Civil society actors to amplify their efforts on this ZERO TOLERANCE DAY TO MAKE A CLARION CALL TO UPHOLD THE ANTI-FGM LAW IN THE GAMBIA.  
Thank you

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