**An Act That Should Be Criminalized**

According to my opinion the historic rituals of “Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision” should be officially declared a criminal offense. The mere act can be defined as “the ritual cutting or removal of some or all of the external female genitalia” which entirely goes against basic human rights and results in countless deaths of women owing to it. The idea behind it comes from male dominated societies in which women don't count as human beings. The notion of such a fact lies in deeply rooted societal patriarchy and gender discrimination where women are only ought to have domesticated roles like bearing children and doing the cooking. It is done for conformity, and to preserve a woman's virginity for her husband on their wedding night. People in those cultures may also believe it to be cleaner and healthier, despite the fact that it has real and serious health risks.

FGM is supported and promoted by both men and women in those cultures, who consider it to be normal and something that is "just done." Female genital mutilation is all the more inhuman since it often leads to infections which can be very dangerous and mortal in many cases. Unfortunately, the practice is carried out in name of religion, tradition, honor, chastity and a social obligation on part of women and is still not regarded as something to be strictly condemned.

According to the social definition of crime “any action or inaction which is socially injurious” FGM can be regarded as a major crime which is continually causing immense damage to the health, life expectancy all the while leading to negative impacts on individual sexual as well as psychological wellbeing. FGM can also be declared as a crime under the “human rights approach” stating “Crime occurs whenever a human right is violated” since basic human rights if women are continually disregarded under this practice under the wrongful social and culturally held beliefs.

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