

CONVERSATION MATERIAL FOR INFORMATION ON GENITAL MUTILATION

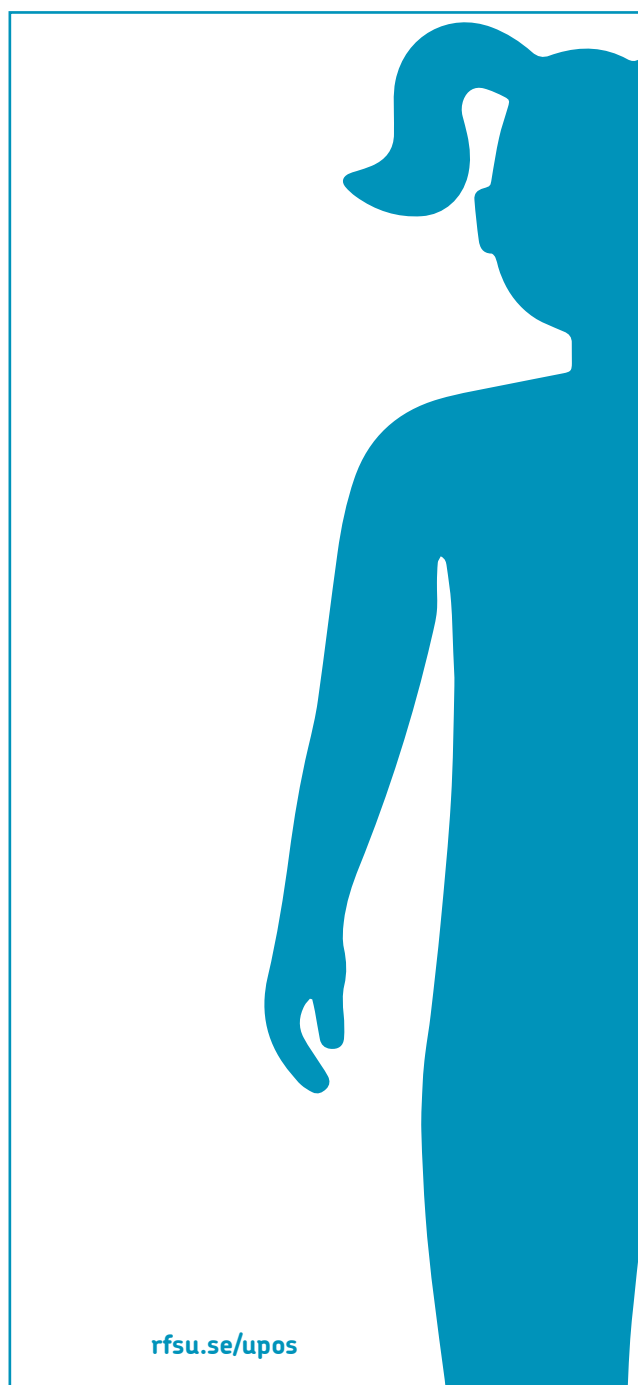
1. Explain that you are going to talk about genital mutilation (also called circumcision, or cutting the genitals), and that you will begin by watching a film about it. Explain that the film will include drawings of naked bodies.
2. Watch the film together.
3. Explain that you will now discuss the topic together, and that the participants may ask questions. Feel free to let the participants themselves decide what the conversation focuses on. Below are examples of questions for discussion that you may use.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Ask the participants to summarize what they felt the film was about. Was there something new or something they had discussed before?
- Summarize together:
 - What is genital mutilation?
 - What can genital mutilation result in?
 - What does the legislation in your country say about genital mutilation?
 - What kind of help is there for those who have been subjected to genital mutilation?
- Is it easy or hard to talk with healthcare professionals about having been subjected to genital mutilation?
- How might the one being subjected to genital mutilation feel?
- How can one enjoy sex, even if one has been subjected to genital mutilation?
- What are the reasons for genital mutilation being carried out in various parts of the world?
- Imagine two parents who don't want their daughter to be genitally mutilated, but others in their social environment expect it. What can the parents do? What kind of support might they need?
- The occurrence of genital mutilation is decreasing in many countries. Why do you think fewer are doing the operation today than 30 years ago?

IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS:

- Different people use various terms for the procedure. It may be called genital mutilation, circumcision or cutting the genitals. Use the term that the person you are talking with feels is appropriate.
- In most countries it is illegal to allow a girl to be genitally mutilated.
- The person subjected to genital mutilation does not always know exactly what has been done to them. This can be determined by a gynaecological examination.
- Different people feel differently following genital mutilation. Some have huge problems, whereas others have minor ones or none. Every reaction is okay.
- It is possible to feel sexual desire, enjoy sex and have an orgasm after genital mutilation.



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- Where you can get help for physical or emotional issues. Help may be given through counselling, examinations, operations or advice concerning sex.

RFSU was founded in 1933 and is a pioneering Swedish organisation working in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

RFSU is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation without party-political, trade union or religious affiliation. Our aim is to spread a knowledge-based and open view of sexuality and relationships issues to overcome prejudices, bridge knowledge gaps and improve sexual health and wellbeing. We run projects and programmes to promote access to sexual and reproductive health and rights — both in Sweden and internationally. Much of this work is done with partners and other organisations. RFSU has a rights perspective of sexuality based on everyone's freedom to be what they want to be, to choose to live as they want and enjoy what they want. The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) was founded by RFSU and other actors, and RFSU remains IPPF's Swedish member association

**You can read more about RFSU's activities at
www.rfsu.se/upos**



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