

2025 ANNUAL REPORT
on the
**New York City Female Genital Mutilation
and Cutting Advisory Committee**

2025 Annual Report on the New York City Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Advisory Committee

The Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C) Advisory Committee was established by Local Law 109 of 2021, and is chaired by The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV). The Advisory Committee aims to make recommendations that engage communities and agencies to decrease and eventually eliminate FGM/C in the city. The Advisory Committee will also identify supportive community-based and culturally responsive resources for people who have undergone FGM/C. To achieve this, the Advisory Committee will make recommendations to address:

- 1) Enhancing access to guidelines and trainings for educators, non-profit organizations, law enforcement and healthcare providers to assist in: (i) the identification and protection of individuals at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation and cutting, and (ii) reporting instances of FGM/C;
- 2) Preventing and responding to the practice of FGM/C, including through culturally sensitive public information about FGM/C;
- 3) Improving the collection of data concerning the practice of FGM/C among individuals and communities in the city, to the extent allowed by law;
- 4) Improving the coordination of systems and services for, as well as the response of agencies to, individuals and communities affected by the practice of FGM/C; and
- 5) Providing opportunities for input from, as well as soliciting and considering the recommendations of stakeholders including, but not limited to, community and faith-based groups, advocacy organizations, survivors of FGM/C and social service providers.

This is the fourth annual report submitted to the Mayor and Speaker of the Council pursuant to Local Law 109 of 2021.

Advisory Committee Activities

The FGM/C Advisory Committee focused on refining and finalizing recommendations based on its landscape analysis and listening sessions with system partners, survivors, and community members and providing feedback on drafts of a public report that documents the work of the Advisory Committee and recommendations. The FGM/C Advisory Committee published its recommendations report in April 2025.

The FGM/C Advisory Committee was dissolved as a formal structure after publishing the April 2025 report and completing the requirements of Local Law 109 of 2021. However,

ENDGBV continues to work with system partners, service providers, survivors, and community members to oversee the implementation of the recommendations published in the report.

ENDGBV Activities

In summer 2025, ENDGBV supported Sahiyo, a key community-based partner from the FGM/C Advisory Committee in submitting a grant application that would have expanded their capacity to provide FGM/C-specific education and centralized resources to service providers. This partnership reflected several key recommendations from the April 2025 report around enhanced training, increased awareness and funding for community-based organizations. However, in November 2025, we were informed that the application was not selected as recipient of the grant. ENDGBV continues to work with our partners to identify projects and pathways to implement recommendations from the report given the ongoing capacity constraints, both within our office and for our community-based partners.

ENDGBV continues to include information on FGM/C in existing trainings. As part of ENDGBV's Family Justice Center Best Practice Training Series, service providers are trained on understanding and responding to FGM/C. Information on understanding FGM/C is additionally included in ENDGBV's foundational Domestic and Gender-Based Violence training for service providers and city agencies as well as others upon request.

Committee Member Appointments and Representatives

As mandated by Local Law 109 of 2021, the Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Advisory Committee must include the following members:

- Three medical professionals, appointed by the Mayor, including two or more licensed physicians, who have extensive experience working with patients who have undergone FGM/C and training healthcare providers on related issues;
- Three representatives, appointed by the Mayor, who are from non-profit organizations that work with individuals who have undergone or are at risk of undergoing FGM/C;
- An expert, appointed by the Mayor, who is in the field of public health data collection and analysis who has relevant research experience and expertise;
- Three individuals, appointed by the Mayor, who have undergone FGM/C.

Mayoral appointments were finalized in December 2022.

The Law also requires designees from the following:

- Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, who shall serve as chair;
- Administration for Children’s Services;
- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
- Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs;
- New York City Police Department;
- Commission on Gender Equity;
- Department of Education;
- Each Borough President’s Office; and
- NYC Health and Hospitals.

As of April 2025, when the Recommendations Report was published, members of the Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting Advisory Committee included, in alphabetical order:

- Daniel Abramson, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Appointments at the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President
- Veronica Ades, Vice Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at NYC Health and Hospitals Jacobi Medical Center
- Tesa Arozqueta, Deputy Commissioner of Community Initiatives and External Affairs at the New York City Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence
- Ariella Davidov, Gender Justice Coordinator at the Office of the Queens Borough President
- Jennifer Hawkins, Mayoral Appointee, Registered Nurse
- Selina Higgins, Executive Director of the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy at the New York City Administration for Children’s Services
- Dena Igusti, Mayoral Appointee, Writer and Filmmaker
- Natasha Johnson, Founder and Executive Director of Globalizing Gender
- Nancy Kheck, Director of Health and Human Services at the Office of the Bronx Borough President
- Nonya Khedr, Mayoral Appointee, Founder and CEO of SheFFA
- Katherine LaGuardia, Special Advisor at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Lorena Lucero, Chief Policy Officer at the New York City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Jeanine Marie, Policy & Program Analyst for Health and Reproductive Justice at the New York City Commission on Gender Equity
- Lucette Moran, Policy Advisor at the New York City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs

- Ushma Neill, Vice President of Scientific Education and Training at Memorial Sloan Kettering
- Deborah Ottenheimer, Mayoral Appointee, Director of Ambulatory Care, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center
- Melissa Paquette, Chief Legal Officer at the New York City Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence
- Winn Periyasamy, Assistant Policy Director at the Office of the Manhattan Borough President
- Jaana Rehnstrom, Mayoral Appointee, Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Founder of the Kota Alliance
- Danny Salim, Deputy Director of Preventative Services at the Arab-American Family Support Center
- Arrizu Sirjani, Senior Policy Advisor at the New York City Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence
- Elena Sullivan, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Oneatha Swinton, Office of Safety and Prevention Partnerships at the NYC Department of Education
- Mariya Taher, Mayoral Appointee, Co-Founder of Sahiyo
- Sean Saifa Wall, Mayoral Appointee, Co-Founder of the Intersex Justice Project
- Nathalie Weeks, Mayoral Appointee, Counselor and Senior Advisor at African Services Committee
- Rashimma Wilson, Training and Curriculum Specialist at the New York City Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

2025 Annual Report

New York City Female Genital Mutilation
and Cutting Advisory Committee