

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



## RELIGIOUS FATWA FOR BANNING ALL FORMS OF FGM/C

### Forward:

For several centuries, Somali communities have been exercising different forms of female genital mutilation / cutting ( FGM/C) subjected to young girls of age 6 to 10 years. According to statistical surveys, 98% of girls and women experienced FGM/C, which is not an Islam practice.

The Puntland government and civil society groups have been engaged for year in efforts of educating public and communities on the harms of FGM/C. They together advocated for stopping the harmful practice.

In view of that, a National Religious Leaders forums hosted jointly by Ministry of justice, religious affairs and rehabilitation (MOJ), Ministry of Women and Family Social Affairs, and Ministry of Health, issued a religious FATWA that bans all forms of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) which is practices in Somalia, particularly in Puntland.

### FATWA:

Following a series of religious leader's dialogue and debates on FGM/C, and considering prevalent Islamic thinking on the matter, the national religious leaders agreed on a common view regarding the FGM/C, which is in line with the guidance from Quran and authentic tradition of the prophet (PBUH) as summarized below:

- There is no verse in the Quran that could be used as evidence for (doing) FGM/C.
- It is a proven fact that female circumcision entails mutilation and altering the bodies of person who undergoes and this is contrary to numerous verses of Quran.
- All medical doctors agree that FGM/C results health problem to girls and women.
- That FGM/C results negative socio-economic consequences to the families and communities.

Therefore, the religious leaders calls for a **complete stopping of the FGM/C** which is commonly practiced everywhere in the country. The religious leaders at same time urge all Somalis, particularly those living in Puntland **to abandon, for the sake of Allah, this harmful practice and any other unlawful acts outside the guidance of Islamic religion**. The religious leaders use below mentioned Quran verses and Islam teachings in support of the FATWA:

- A. "You will not see any flaw in what the lord of mercy creates". (Quran: 67:03)
- B. "...and there is no changing in Allah's creation..." (Quran 30:30)
- C. "Cause no harm and do not reciprocate harm" (Hadith)
- D. And relevant Fiqi principles that ban any harm to personality safety of human being.

May Allah Guide us to the righteous path!

