



Date: 17 May 2024

Subject: Information on the implementation of the General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/195 on "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation: report of the Secretary-General" in Bosnia and Herzegovina

This report presents measures of authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to address female genital mutilation and delivery of essential support services for survivors and women and girls at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation in Bosnia and Herzegovina as per General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/195 on "Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation: report of the Secretary-General".

In the reporting period, not a single case of female genital mutilation was reported or recorded in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Bosnia and Herzegovina has taken legislative measures to prevent genital mutilation of women and girls. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a signatory to the Council of Europe Convention on combating and preventing violence against women and domestic violence - the Istanbul Convention, which, among other things, stipulates that female genital mutilation is a criminal offense. In the process of harmonizing domestic legislation with the aforementioned Convention, the criminal legislation of Republika Srpska and Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina was amended. Namely, in March 2024, the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted amendments to the Criminal Code which, among other things, defined the new criminal offense of "female genital mutilation" and prescribed punishments. The Republika Srpska prescribed this criminal offense earlier, while the inclusion of this criminal offense in the legislation of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the process. With the adoption of amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the criminal offense of female genital mutilation, the criminal legislation in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be aligned with the mentioned convention on this issue.

Assistance, support to victims as well as prevention of genital mutilation of women and girls is prescribed by laws on protection against domestic violence at the level of entities and Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These laws define the roles of protection subjects and their actions in cases of violence against women and domestic violence, which includes genital mutilation. Laws also prescribe mechanisms for protection, i.e. a multi-sector approach and protocols on treatment.

**MINISTRY OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFUGEES OF BIH
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