



# **Republican National Committee**

**Counsel's Office**

## **RESOLUTION CONDEMNING AND BANNING THE PRACTICE OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION FOR ALL GIRLS AND WOMEN LIVING in the UNITED STATES, TERRITORIES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**WHEREAS**, In the United States of America all persons live under the Constitution which provides for equal protection under the law with rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness;

**WHEREAS**, Female Genital Mutilation also called 'cutting' or 'alteration' refers to the partial or complete removal of the external female genitalia for reasons other than medical and may also include the stitching of the vaginal opening;

**WHEREAS**, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, numbers have quadrupled since 1997 estimating over 513,000 women and girls living in the United States are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation;

**WHEREAS**, The World Health Organization has stated Female Genital Mutilation has no health benefits and causes numerous health problems including physical and psychological;

**WHEREAS**, Female Genital Mutilation violates a person's right to be free from torture and cruel inhuman or degrading treatment and the right to life when the procedure results in death;

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**WHEREAS**, University of Illinois, Chicago, School of Medicine stated Female Genital Mutilation is performed on girls from infancy to fifteen years of age, however, adult women are also at risk;

**WHEREAS**, The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics as well as the World Health Organization have labeled all forms of Female Genital Mutilation as a “Human Rights Violation”;

**WHEREAS**, Since Female Genital Mutilation is regarded as a traditionally cultural practice prejudicial to the health of children and is, in most cases, performed on minors, it violates the “Convention on the Rights of the Child”;

**WHEREAS**, Female Genital Mutilation is not against the law in twenty six states, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, The Republican National Committee strongly supports outreach and comprehensive education to communities, including immigrant communities, regarding the legal, physical and psychological consequences of Female Genital Mutilation;

**RESOLVED**, The Republican National Committee encourages civic, cultural, and religious leaders to educate their communities on the harm and illegality of Female Genital Mutilation;

**RESOLVED**, The Republican National Committee call on professional medical organizations and educational institutions to provide guidelines and training to assist front-line professionals to identify and protect girls at risk; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, The Republican National Committee strongly promotes state and federal legislation banning the practice of Female Genital Mutilation in all fifty states, territories and the District of Columbia, with severe repercussions of those choosing to violate the law including robust enforcement of such laws prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation in cases of girls sent abroad to obtain the procedure.

Sponsored by:

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