



31 May 2012

Subject: Invitation to an Expert Meeting on the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation

Dear invitee,

On behalf of the Netherlands AWEPA Section, AWEPA International and Hivos, we would like to invite you to an Expert Meeting on the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), hosted by Hon. Kathleen Ferrier, Head of the Netherlands AWEPA Section and in cooperation with the Embassy of the United States of America. The event will take place on Tuesday the 19th of June 2012, from 18.00 to 19.45. A reception will follow. We are proud to announce that the event will be held in the former General Assembly Hall ("Oude Zaal") of the House of Representatives, The Hague.

Female Genital Mutilation is recognized internationally as a human rights violation. It reflects deeply-rooted inequality between sexes, and constitutes a severe form of violence and discrimination against women. FGM is considered to be mainly practiced in African countries, but recent data show that it is as well prevalent in the Middle East. Europe and other western countries are also directly confronted with the consequences of FGM, occurring in Diaspora communities.

The meeting will bring together members of parliament, policy makers and diplomats to discuss the practice FGM. Participants will share information about the situation in different regions and discuss options for parliamentary support to the abandonment of the practice. Please find enclosed the concept note and programme with more information about the content of the meeting.

We request you to register by sending an e-mail to Ms. Gemma Andriessen, email g.andriessen@hivos.nl, tel. 070-3765537. If you have any questions, you can also contact: Ms. Tatjana van den Ham, Programme Manager AWEPA, e-mail t.vandenham@awepa.org, tel. 020-5245652. Should you not be able to participate, we kindly ask you to appoint a representative to attend the meeting.

We look forward to welcome you in the House of Representatives on the 19th of June.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Kathleen Ferrier
MP CDA
Member of the AWEPA Governing Council
Head of the Netherlands AWEPA Section

Minister of State Ms. Miet Smet
AWEPA President

Manuela Monteiro
Hivos Executive Director

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