



# German Medical Association

Federation of the German Chambers of Physicians

German Medical Assembly

PRESIDENT

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## Via email

To the attention of His Excellency Adama Barrow  
President of the Republic of The Gambia  
[info@op.gov.gm](mailto:info@op.gov.gm)

To the attention of Hon. Fabakary Tombong Jatta, Chairperson of the National Assembly of The Gambia  
[clerk@assembly.gm](mailto:clerk@assembly.gm) | [nationalassembly32@gmail.com](mailto:nationalassembly32@gmail.com) | [assemblyspeakerftj@gmail.com](mailto:assemblyspeakerftj@gmail.com) | [masise@assembly.gm](mailto:masise@assembly.gm)

To the attention of Hon. Amadou Camara, Chairperson of the Select Committee on Health, Refugees, Disaster & Humanitarian Relief of the National Assembly of The Gambia  
[bccpro2019@gmail.com](mailto:bccpro2019@gmail.com)

To the attention of Hon. Fatoumatta Njai, Chairperson of the Select Committee on Gender, Children and Social Welfare of the National Assembly of The Gambia  
[touma@yayi-denton.org](mailto:touma@yayi-denton.org) | [suwaiboutouray@yahoo.com](mailto:suwaiboutouray@yahoo.com)

To the attention of Hon. Dawda A. Jallow, Minister of Justice of the Republic of The Gambia  
[info@moj.gov.gm](mailto:info@moj.gov.gm)

To the attention of Hon. Fatou Kinteh, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare of the Republic of The Gambia  
[info@mogcsw.gov.gm](mailto:info@mogcsw.gov.gm)

## For information:

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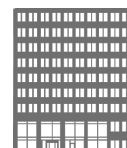
## Call for the withdrawal of the bill lifting the ban on female genital mutilation in the Republic of The Gambia

*Female genital mutilation is a violation of human rights*

Your Excellencies,

I am writing to you on behalf of the German Medical Association (GMA), a member of the World Medical Association (WMA) that represents all 569,000 registered physicians in Germany.

We would like to voice our deepest concerns regarding the bill to lift the ban on female genital mutilation (FGM) in The Gambia and to endorse the WMA's open letter calling for the withdrawal of the bill dated 12 June 2024.



Office of the German Medical  
Association  
in Berlin

Female genital mutilation in women and girls has serious physical and emotional implications.

The GMA has long condemned genital mutilation as a gross violation of the human rights of girls and women and strongly opposes the involvement of physicians in this practice. As physicians, we stress the permanent damage to health caused by this cruel practice, including haemorrhages, infections, shock and severe chronic pain, urologic and obstetric complications and even death during or after mutilation.

In line with the [WMA's Statement on Female Genital Mutilation](#) and the [Resolution](#) adopted by the WMA Council last April, I call on the Gambian authorities to immediately withdraw the bill lifting the ban on female genital mutilation and to comply with its international human rights obligations, in particular the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, all of which The Gambia ratified.

I appeal to you to take all necessary measures within your authority to reject this unjustifiable bill. Every opportunity must be taken to proactively protect women and girls against female genital mutilation.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Klaus Reinhardt  
President of the German Medical Association