



**kalyanamitra**  
Pusat Komunikasi dan Informasi Perempuan  
Women's Communication and Information Centre

Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)  
Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD)  
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Re: Indonesia – 66<sup>th</sup> pre-sessional working group of the Committee (7 – 11 Oct. 2013)

28 June 2013

Distinguished Committee Members,

We respectfully submit this letter in advance of the Committee on the Rights of the Child's (the Committee's) discussion of Indonesia at its 66th pre-sessional working group from 7-11 October 2013. Equality Now, and the Indonesian-based Kalyanamitra, non-governmental human rights organizations, very recently wrote to the UN Human Rights Committee to express our concern about the discrimination and inequality faced by Indonesian women and girls. Please find enclosed a copy of our submission to the Human Rights Committee concerning continued violations against girls in Indonesia and our Action calling on the Indonesian government to live up to its domestic and international obligations by repealing the 2010 Ministry of Health regulation legitimizing the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM).

Indonesia's third and fourth periodic reports of States parties due in 2007, to the Committee, state that, "The Government issued Director General of Public Health Circular Number HK.00.07.1.3.1047a regarding Medicalization of Female Circumcision for Health Personnel that prohibit medical personnel, paramedics and health-related professions to conduct female circumcision, either by incision, cutting, or mutilation of genitals and surrounding parts." (CRC/C/IDN/3-4, ¶128). This regulation has been superceded, however, by a November Ministry of Health regulation (No. 1636/MENKES/PER/XI/2010), which authorizes medical personnel to perform FGM.

FGM violates the principles of non-discrimination and rights to basic health and welfare of the girl-child under the Convention on the Rights of Child. We also note the Committee's General comment No. 15 (2013) on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (art. 24) which states, "Gender-based discrimination is particularly pervasive, affecting a wide range of outcomes.... Attention also needs to be given to harmful gender-based practices and norms of behaviour that are ingrained in traditions and customs and undermine the right to health of girls and

boys.” (CRC/C/CG/15, ¶ 9). We hope the Committee will join the other treaty monitoring bodies in emphasizing the urgent need for the Indonesian government to repeal the 2010 regulation and enact and implement comprehensive legislation against FGM.

*Suggested Questions for the State Party’s List of Issues*

We would respectfully urge the Committee to raise with the Indonesian government in its State Party’s List of Issues the following questions with regard to violations of the CRC addressed in this letter:

- 1) What are the government’s plans to repeal the 2010 regulation legitimizing the practice of FGM?
- 2) What measures has the government undertaken to raise awareness and educate the public about FGM as primarily a violation of the human rights of girls and women and not just a health issue?
- 3) What are the government’s plans to end FGM in Indonesia including by enactment and effective implementation of legislation banning FGM?

Thank you very much for your kind attention, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,

  
Yasmeen Hassan  
Global Director  
Equality Now

  
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Listyowati  
Chairperson  
Kalyanamitra

Enclosure