



POSITION STATEMENT

FEMALE CIRCUMCISION

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) recognizes that female circumcision (also known as female genital mutilation or cutting) adversely affects the physical, psychological and social health of millions of women in this country and abroad. Female circumcision, including all variations of clitoridectomy, excision and infibulation, frequently results in serious short and long term health consequences, including death.

ACNM supports the views of national and international conventions, declarations, charters and resolutions that female circumcision is a gender-based human rights issue that threatens basic rights of girls and women including their right to health, life, physical and sexual integrity, human dignity, self-determination, and freedom from torture, violence and bodily harm.

ACNM acknowledges that female circumcision is a practice deeply rooted in the cultures, traditions, beliefs and economies of the areas in which it is practiced.

As Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) and Certified Midwives (CMs) provide care to women who have experienced female circumcision or who come from ethnic or religious groups in which female circumcision is common practice, ACNM joins the world community in advocating the elimination of practices such as female circumcision that are harmful to the health of girls and women, recognizing that ending such practices requires dissemination of information and grass-roots advocacy in the communities where female circumcision is practiced.

Source: Division of Standards and Practice
Approved by the ACNM Board of Directors: August 2000