



12 January 2016

Dear Secretary-General BAN,

It is a great honour to invite you to address the high-level event to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) hosted by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, and UNICEF. The event will be held on Monday, 8 February 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the United Nations Secretariat in New York. The theme of this year's event is *Together, mobilizing to contribute to the achievement of the new Global Goals through the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation by 2030*.

The purpose of the event is to celebrate the inclusion of eliminating Female Genital Mutilation in the Sustainable Development Goals under Goal 5 Target 5.3 and mark this important moment when the world recognizes that Female Genital Mutilation is a universal problem that affects girls, women and communities throughout the world. The event will bring together key decision-makers in government, civil society and the voices of survivors and activists to share new information, best practices and discuss the links between eliminating Female Genital Mutilation and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals including targets on health, education, and economic growth. It will also help mobilize stakeholders towards the achievement of target 5.3—the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and other harmful practices.

You would be joined by other policy and thought leaders, survivors and activists to share your perspective and priorities in the global movement to end Female Genital Mutilation. In particular, we would be pleased if you could speak about *the overall global efforts, including the inclusion of Female Genital Mutilation in the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN General Assembly Resolutions 67/146 in 2012 and 69/150 in 2014 on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations*.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to participate in a press conference to mark the 2016 International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The press conference will be held as part of a series of communication initiatives, conducted in conjunction with the Department of Public Information and other UN agencies. The press conference for UN-accredited journalists will be the first public-facing communications activity on the International Day and we would welcome your participation and inputs. If you are unable to stay for the entire press conference, we would then request your participation for 15 minutes to offer the opening remarks. The press conference will take place on 5 February at 10:00 a.m. with details to follow.

His Excellency
Mr. BAN Ki-moon
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United Nations
New York, New York 10017

By fax: 212-963-2155



Should you kindly agree to participate, your office may contact Mr. Luis Mora at mora@unfpa.org or 212 297 4936 who will promptly contact you to ensure that all the necessary preparations are made to support your intervention.

We assure you of our utmost support and collaboration in planning for this event and press conference.

With respect and best wishes,



Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin
Executive Director