

Hirsi Ali: "The aim of FGM in all its forms is to control female sexuality."

Ayaan Hirsi Ali states the blatantly obvious – too obvious for the *NYT* apparently – at [AHA Foundation](#) as a resource to help women and girls who are truly bridging the gap between worlds and cultures. They are living in the United States under the protection of our laws and Constitution but suffering human rights abuses imported from overseas.

The aim of FGM in all its forms is to control female sexuality. The clitoris is removed to take physical pleasure from sex and reduce the libido. In its more severe forms, involving sewing the genitals up, the aim is to ensure the girl is a virgin on her wedding night. Many women must be surgically re-opened (or simply with a pen knife or razor blade) in order to consummate their marriage. The consequences of FGM are ongoing psychological and physical harms from infections to fistulas and even death.

Even in its most mild form, the 'nick' procedure involves a young girl being held down by her loved ones and a needle poked into one of her most sensitive body parts. The moment this is done the child becomes sexually aware, she can now be a temptation to men, she can destroy her family's so-called 'honor' and must now behave in certain ways around boys to demonstrate her modesty.

The debate around nicking, which had been previously settled, was revived again last year by an article in the *Journal of Medical Ethics*. The authors argued that nicking the vulva or cutting out the hood of the clitoris (FGM forms 1 and 2 above) are less harmful and should be tolerated by liberal societies. These practices, they suggest, are ethically acceptable and

not contraventions of girls' human rights.

Indeed, like the *New York Times*, these academics argue that referring to modest forms of FGM 'mutilation' is culturally insensitive and demonizes 'important cultural practices'. Yet the meaning of those 'important cultural practices' is not examined beneath their 'ethical lens.' Notoriously academics and politically correct apologists like them assume any claim of 'culture' is by rights a good thing and trumps other considerations.

Seeing as they are so reluctant to critique cultural practices, other than those of 'powerful, white men,' I will do it for them. The 'nick' symbolizes and communicates to little girls that their natural state is unclean and that pain must be inflicted on their genitals to make them acceptable to their communities.

FGM is the symptom of harmful cultural beliefs that girls and women must be sexually pure, modest and that their bodies exist to breed. Whether it's justified by being a Muslim, Egyptian, Indian, Jewish, black, a woman or any other category venerated in the identity politics pantheon, these beliefs are not compatible with liberal societies that profess to ensure the human rights of their citizens.

I encourage anyone interested to stop this barbaric practice happening in the United States to contact us – [AHA Foundation](#), which exists to protect women and girls from abuses of the sort described in this article. She is also a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford.