



*This fatwa was signed on 24 November 2006 in Cairo by the Great Mufti of Egypt Ali Gom'a. On 10 December 2007 during the discussion in Rotterdam, organized by the Islamic University Rotterdam, Pharos and FSAN, the content of this fatwa was clarified by Dr. M.W. Abbas Khadar, the deputy of the Great Mufti and his spokesman. Dutch Islamic scholars signed a declaration to confirm that the fatwa from Egypt is correct and has to be complied with.*

In the name of Allah the all merciful

The international conference of scholars concerning a ban on abuse of the female body was held on 1st and 2nd Du al-Qi'dah 1427 of the Hijri, corresponding to the 22nd and 23rd November 2006, in the conference facilities at Al-Azhar University. An array of research work was presented. Once scientists, Islamic scholars, experts and activists from civil rights organisations in Egypt, Europe and Africa had been heard, the following recommendations were issued:

1. Allah gave people dignity. In the Qur'an Allah says: "We have dignified the sons of Adam". Therefore, Allah forbids any harm coming to man, irrespective of social status and gender.
2. Genital circumcision is a deplorable, inherited custom, which is practiced in some societies and is copied by some Muslims in several countries. There are no written grounds for this custom in the Qur'an with regard to an authentic tradition of the Prophet.
3. The female genital circumcision practiced today harms women psychologically and physically. Therefore, the practice must be stopped in support of one of the highest values of Islam, namely to do no harm to another – in accordance with the commandment of the Prophet Mohammed "Accept no harm and do no harm to another". Moreover, this is seen as punishable aggression against humankind.
4. The conference calls on Muslims to end this deplorable custom in accordance with the teachings of Islam, which forbid injuring another in any form.
5. The participants of the conference also called on international and religious institutions and establishments to concentrate their efforts on educating and instructing the population. This concerns particularly the basic rules of hygienic and medicine, which must be maintained for women so that this deplorable custom is no longer practiced.
6. The conference reminds the educational establishments and the media that they have an implicit duty to educate about the harm this custom brings and its devastating consequences for society. This will contribute to stopping the custom of mutilating the female body.
7. The conference calls on the legislative organs to pass a law, which bans the practice of this gruesome custom and declares it a crime, irrespective of whether this concerns the perpetrator or the initiator.
8. Furthermore, the conference calls on international institutions and organisations to provide help in all regions where this gruesome custom is practiced, which will contribute to its elimination.