

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AS A VIOLATION OF SEXUAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN
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Picture of Circumcision in progress

- A girl is pinned down to be circumcised .
- The crowd witnesses her courage.
- The crowd humiliates her if she cries.
- If she does not she is praised.



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Why FGM has defied change

- ☐ It is a central cultural rite that provides identity and belonging
Main cause of early and forced marriage
- ☐ It is generation marker for men and women
- ☐ Key values such as courage, identity, generosity, sharing, were instilled.
- ☐ A vacuum is left when crossing from childhood to adulthood.

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Tumndo Ne Leel Alternative Rite of Passage

- ☐ It is designed to replace FGM. It means new initiation without circumcision
- ☐ It is community specific and culturally sensitive
- ☐ The name and the process of initiation simulates the traditional practice for adaptability.
- ☐ A curriculum guides the process just as was in the past
Initiators (*motirenik*) trained on the Curriculum play important roles as in the past
- ☐ The ceremonies and rituals include:
Seclusion, initiation, and graduation.
- ☐ Embraces all faiths.

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Impact of *Tumndo Ne Leel* Program

- ☐ Program is 10 years old.
- ☐ FGM incidences reduced on girls
- ☐ Teenage pregnancies reduced
- ☐ Abortion cases reduced
- ☐ Reports and comments positive.
- ☐ Over 6000 girls initiated
- ☐ 3000 initiators trained
- ☐ Demand for programs is high
- ☐ Girls remain in school longer
- ☐ Girls continue with their education to next levels.

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Long Term Strategy

Center for social Transformation and Empowerment-(CESTE)
 Located in a remote valley where FGM is practiced as the last hold of culture
 It is remote, dry and poor community disconnected from modern civilization

OBJECTIVE:

- ☐ The center has been established to provide:
- ☐ Alternative means of livelihood
- ☐ Alternative rite of passage for girls
- ☐ Training of women-initiators
- ☐ Social and cultural transformation for accelerated development.

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The Future?

- ❑ Implement strategic plan 2007-2013
- ❑ Replicate the program in all the 10 Kalenjin communities.
- ❑ Encourage other communities/ countries practicing FGM to adopt and customize the model.
- ❑ Operationalize Center for Social Transformation and Empowerment.
- ❑ Establish networks locally and internationally
- ❑ Work with Health and Education Institutions in promotion of sexual well being of women and girls

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Challenges

- ❑ Resources – Human and Finances
- ❑ Materials – Curriculum production
- ❑ Meeting high demand for the program

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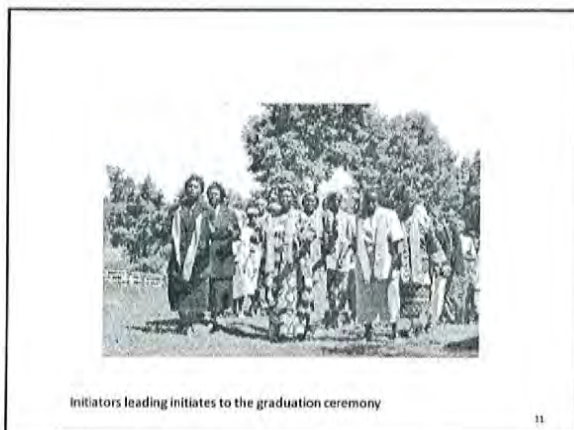
Conclusion

- The only way to change a peoples' culture is to provide an alternative.
- *Tumdo Ne Leel* is an appropriate replacement of FGM.
- The model promotes reproductive health rights of women while keeping the communities values intact
- The Center plays a significant role of providing a home to the program.

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Information on *Tumdo Ne Leel* Support Group

<p>VISION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ A model of excellence in empowering women to transform communities <p>DIRECTORS and STAFF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Mrs. Jane Rii: President ❑ Dr. Susan Chebet: Executive Director, Secretary ❑ Mrs. Peris Kiplagat: Treasurer ❑ Mrs. Nancy Kosch: Program Coordinator ❑ Mrs. Caro Ngetich: Research and Documentation ❑ Mr. Caleb Kipgetich: Logistics and Publicity ❑ Ms. Gladys Jebichiy: Administrative Secretary 	<p>PARTNERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Global Fund for Women ❑ South Africa-USA ❑ Moi University - Kenya ❑ Local churches in Kenya ❑ Individual donations - Global <p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p><i>Tumdo Ne Leel</i> Support Group Legenai Hse. Off Nandi RD, P.O. Box 164-5010 Eldoret, Kenya Cell: +254-721866770 E-mail: tumdolect@yahoo.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ A registered community based organization recognized by the laws of Kenya under the Ministry of Gender, Culture, and Sports. ❑ Operated as a not-for-profit organization
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Graduation of girls from Tumndo Ne Leel Program

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Initiators and initiates during graduation

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Men who have accepted change

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Saying thank you to initiators and guests

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