

Charter of the Asia Network to End FGM/C

Section 1: Overview

Article 1: Name

The name of this organisation shall be the Asia Network to End Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) (the “Asia Network to End FGM/C” or the “Asia Network”).

Article 2: Location

The Network will be formally located within the premises of The Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW), No. 1 & 2, Jalan Scott, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Asia Network is funded through the Wallace Global Fund and AmplifyChange for the period of 2020 - 2022.

Article 3: Objectives of the Asia Network to End FGM/C

The purpose of the Asia Network to End FGM/C shall be to end the practice of FGM/C in all of its forms across the asia region. The Network aims to do this through:

- Supporting and connecting engaged and informed civil society actors working to end FGM/C across Asia
- Raising awareness of the practice of FGM/C in Asia at national, regional and global levels
- Advocating for laws, policies, programmes and resourcing to end FGM/C in Asia, with an emphasis on championing and prioritising grassroots and women-led organisations and activists
- Gathering data, evidence and supporting further research on the scope and practice of FGM/C in Asia, including effective strategies to support abandonment of the practice
- Championing and promoting grassroots and survivor voices working to end FGM/C in Asia
- Providing a supportive and collaborative platform for knowledge-sharing to end FGM/C
- Connecting Asian activists and civil society to the global movement to end FGM/C

Section 2: Membership

Article 4.1: Full membership

Applications for full membership of the Asia Network to End FGM/C shall be open to organisations and individuals that meet all of the following criteria:

- Have worked or are currently working on the issue of FGM/C
- Are based in the Asia region, or carry out activities based in the Asia region

- Are aligned with and committed to upholding the Asia Network's values

Article 4.2: Associate membership

Applications for associate membership of the Asia Network to End FGM/C shall be open to organisations and individuals that meet **one** of the following criteria:

1. Are based in Asia but are not currently working on FGM/C and wish to start.
Organisations and individuals who work on related issues are encouraged to join the Asia Network.
2. Are not based in Asia but have strong links to the region and work actively on ending FGM/C

and:

3. Are aligned with and committed to upholding the Asia Network's values¹

Article 5: Benefits of membership

- Full membership:
 - Join and participate in listservs
 - Join and participate in network meetings and discussions
 - Join and participate in working groups
 - Join and participate in network events hosted by the Asia Network
 - Receive all updates and communications from the Asia Network and its members related to advocacy, campaigning, news and funding opportunities
 - Nominate full Asia Network members to stand for election to the Advisory Board
 - Stand for election to the Asia Network Advisory Board
 - Full voting rights (one vote per organisation or individual)
- Associate membership:
 - Join and participate in listservs
 - Join and participate in network meetings and discussions
 - Join and participate in working groups
 - Join and participate in network events hosted by the Asia Network
 - Receive all updates and communications from the Asia Network and its members related to advocacy, campaigning, news and funding opportunities
 - Nominate full Asia Network members to stand for election to the Advisory Board

Article 6: Commitments of members

All members of the Asia Network commit to:

- Upholding the values of the Asia Network

¹ Please see Section 5 for the full list of Asia Network to End FGM/C values.

- Avoid any action or activity that could discredit the Asia Network to End FGM/C or bring it into disrepute, including interfering with the achievement of the Network's objectives
- Contributing to the work of the Asia Network by actively participating in its activities, communications, and sharing of information.

Article 8: Resignation of membership and exclusion procedure

Any member of the Asia Network can choose to revoke its membership of the Network at any point by making a written request to the Asia Network Hub Coordinator. An individual or organisation may have its membership of the network revoked if it is in breach of its membership commitments denoted under Article 6. A determination of exclusion can be made by a majority decision of and upon recommendation of the Advisory Board.

Article 9: Membership fees

Membership of the Asia Network to End FGM/C shall be free. There will be no cost to join the network.

Section 3: The Advisory Board

Article 10: Responsibilities

The Asia Network Advisory Board will have advisory powers to guide and support the direction of the Asia Network. Its role will include:

- Supporting and guiding the Asia Network's **Strategy**:
 - Identifying advocacy opportunities and strategic partnerships
 - Supporting evidence and research generation on FGM/C in Asia
 - Providing expertise and guidance on national and regional strategies and activities towards ending FGM/C
- Help to maximise the Asia Network's **Impact**:
 - Increase the network's visibility globally, regionally and nationally
 - Monitor and evaluate the network's progress
 - Help network with other organisations in other regions
 - Sharing knowledge with members of the network
- Support the Asia Network's **Sustainability**:
 - Help the network to grow its membership across Asia
 - Identify funding opportunities for the Asia Network and its members
 - Ensure continuous reflection and collective learning

Article 11: Advisory Board members

The number of Advisory Board members shall be set at seven (7), and shall give due weight and consideration for regional and national representation.

The Advisory Board can co-opt an additional member to the Advisory Board in exceptional circumstances and for the strict purposes of improving representation and diversity, with reference for example to the inclusion of key stakeholder perspectives such as survivors of FGM/C.

Article 12: Election procedure

The Chair of the Advisory Board shall call for elections to the Advisory Board every two years. All Asia Network members shall be entitled to put forward nominations for an individual to the Advisory Board. Any full member of the Asia Network is eligible to be nominated and elected to the advisory board.

Nominations will be collected and reviewed by the Asia Network Hub Coordinator on the basis of expertise and experience working on the issue of FGM/C, and will be allocated into voting groups for the purpose of securing regional and national representation.

Advisory Board members shall be elected by a majority vote of full members at the annual Asia Network convening, and will serve a two year term. No Steering Committee Member shall serve more than two consecutive two-year terms, but may be re-elected after a lapse of one year.

Voting may take place in person, in writing, or by the use of electronic virtual software in order to support the highest levels of participation and inclusion.

Article 13: Vacancies

A vacancy on the Advisory Board shall be filled without delay for the remainder of the unexpired term by a majority vote of the remaining Advisory Board members and upon the recommendation of the Asia Network Hub Coordinator, with due respect for geographic representation and thematic expertise.

Voting may take place in person, in writing, or by the use of electronic virtual software in order to support the highest levels of participation and inclusion.

Article 14: Removal

An Advisory Board member may be removed from office at any time if they are found to be in breach of the Asia Network's commitments under Article 6, or for any cause deemed to be sufficient by a qualified majority vote of three quarters (3/4s) of the full Asia Network Advisory Board. An Advisory Board member subject to removal under this procedure shall be notified of the proposed removal in writing at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the proposed action.

Article 15: Compensation

Advisory Board members will not receive salaries for their services, but reasonable expenses incurred in the course of attending in-person Advisory Board meetings may be reimbursed with the advance agreement of the Asia Network Hub Coordinator and upon the production of full receipts where this has been approved.

Article 16: Meetings of the Advisory Board

1. At least one annual meeting of the Advisory Board shall take place every year at the Asia Network's Annual General Meeting (AGM), where elections to the Board and agenda setting will take place.
2. Regular meetings of the Advisory Board shall be held at least two (2) times per year, and may be held virtually or in person.

Article 17: Record of Meetings. The Secretary or, in the absence of the Secretary, one of the Advisory Board members designated by the Advisory Board and participating in the meeting, shall keep a written record of the meeting. Minutes of the Advisory Board shall be shared with all members of the Asia Network as appropriate.

Article 18: Election of Advisory Board officers

The Advisory Board can elect a Chairperson and a Secretary by a majority vote to be taken each year at the annual meeting. The Chairperson and Secretary will hold their positions for a one (1) year term, and may stand for re-election once for a maximum two-year term. Advisory Board members will be eligible to stand for election again following a lapse of one year.

Section 4: Asia Network Hub Coordinator

Article 19: The Hub Coordinator

The Asia Network Hub Coordinator acts as the secretariat for the Asia Network. The Hub Coordinator will carry out day to day management of the Asia Network, including administrative and operational functioning of the network and its external representation.

The Hub Coordinator shall be situated within ARROW at its registered office location. ARROW and Orchid Project shall be responsible for the hiring and dismissal of Asia Network hub staff.

Section 5: Asia Network Values

1. We are highly **collaborative** and supportive of each other. We actively look for opportunities to share our learning and experiences in ending FGM/C and work inclusively to listen to and engage with all voices in our movement.

2. We are **non-judgemental and respectful** in our approach to ending FGM/C and in our work together. We encourage open dialogue founded on empathy to create a safe space for everyone to ask questions, share knowledge and make the decision to end FGM/C for themselves.
3. We recognise that ending FGM/C in all of its forms globally is necessary to achieving full **gender equality**. Ending FGM/C also requires challenging and changing harmful gender norms and stereotypes. We commit to working to end FGM/C in ways that empower women and girls in an inclusive way.
4. We recognise that FGM/C is a violation of the human rights of women and girls. We commit to a **human rights-based approach** to ending FGM/C that challenges injustice, champions equality and diversity, and takes an intersectional approach to ending FGM/C by recognising the many differences that make our movement stronger.
5. We utilise an **evidence-based** approach in our work to end FGM/C that is based upon available data, evidence and research where this is available. We will also champion calls for greater data and evidence generation on FGM/C in Asia as a priority.
6. We are **nonpartisan** and have no political or religious affiliations of any kind. We commit to working collaboratively and respectfully with any group and individual that shares our mission of ending FGM/C in all its forms across Asia.
7. We are strongly committed to **centring survivors** and their experiences of FGM/C in our work and collaboration.