



1ST PAN—AFRICAN YOUTH SUMMIT — YOUTH#ENDFGM2018

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE END FGM MOVEMENT

25 — 26TH APRIL 2018, NAIROBI

The Girl Generation is pleased to announce the first ever Pan-African Youth #EndFGM 2018 Summit, a two day event to be held in Nairobi in April 2018.

The Youth#EndFGM Summit will bring together young people from across the continent — placing them at the centre of the movement to end FGM, and catalysing their collective action, reach and influence. The #EndFGM summit will be an opportunity to celebrate the change that is already taking place, share together what has worked and what hasn't, and to show the world that African young people are seriously committed to ending FGM. They will make their call to action to young people across the continent, and deliver their demands to African leaders about the future they want to be part of.

Background

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a global issue affecting 200 million women and girls worldwide. It is one of the most severe human rights violations and is increasingly receiving international attention.

We believe that more needs to be done to ensure FGM ends in a generation, by continuously building awareness of the issue, profiling FGM as a global problem that is directly related to many other girls' rights issues and, importantly, engaging more people in the issue, sparking conversations and debate, and prompting individuals to take action within their own contexts.

Young people are inspiration and fuel for The Girl Generation. They are critical to ending FGM in their generation, as culture shapers, policy influencers and future parents. African youth are more connected and engaged than ever, with social media providing access to new information, new ways of communicating with one another, and providing a window on a world previously beyond their reach. They are open to new ideas, influenced by cultural figures from around the world, and ready to give their allegiance and passion to issues they see as important. This is an inquisitive, confident, vibrant generation; it is full of energy, potential and aspiration; and it leads the way in speaking out for change and opportunity.

The Africa Economic Outlook's 2015 report indicates that 40% of the continent's working age population is between the ages of 15 and 24. How they think and what they see as important are crucial insights to shaping private sector and development priorities in shaping Africa's future. Further data shows that Africa has the youngest and fastest-growing population in the world, and it continues to get younger as populations around the world get older. There are almost 200 million youth in Africa and that number will double by 2045. With this in mind, 2017 has been marked as "The Year of Youth" by the Africa Union - "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth". They recognize that "Investments made today in the youth, who represent Africa's greatest asset, will determine the development trajectory of Africa over the next 50 years and position the continent towards realizing the "Africa We Want," as a strong, united and influential global player and partner."

Success in achieving our goal to see an end to FGM in a generation will only be possible with young people at the helm – and there is already, a visible demonstration of young people's commitment to ending FGM across the continent. Since 2016, The Girl Generation has supported the launch of three Anti-FGM youth networks – in Nigeria, Kenya and The Gambia – and worked closely with a similar network in Sudan. These networks are *for youth, by youth*, setting their own agenda and designing their own approach to reach other youth in their spheres of influence. They are creative, confident and assertive – using the tools at their fingertips to generate discussion amongst their peers. They have also achieved the attention of their leaders and decision-makers.

Young people report feeling that they are involved "*sporadically and often superficially as architects, shapers, or producers of systems that are built on their behalf.*" **It is time that this changed.**

Pan-African Youth #EndFGM Summit, 2018

The Youth #EndFGM Summit will bring together young people from across the continent and the African diaspora – placing them at the centre of the movement to end FGM, and catalysing their collective action, reach and influence.

This Youth #EndFGM summit will be an opportunity to celebrate the change that is already taking place, share together what has worked and what hasn't, and to show the world that African young people are seriously committed to ending FGM. They will make their call to action, and deliver their message of change to their leaders, their communities and their peers about the future they want to be part of.

The Pan African **Youth #EndFGM2018** summit is a two day event that will be held in April 2018, in Nairobi Kenya.

Who are the hosts?

The summit will be hosted by The Girl Generation and the Youth Anti-FGM network in Africa.

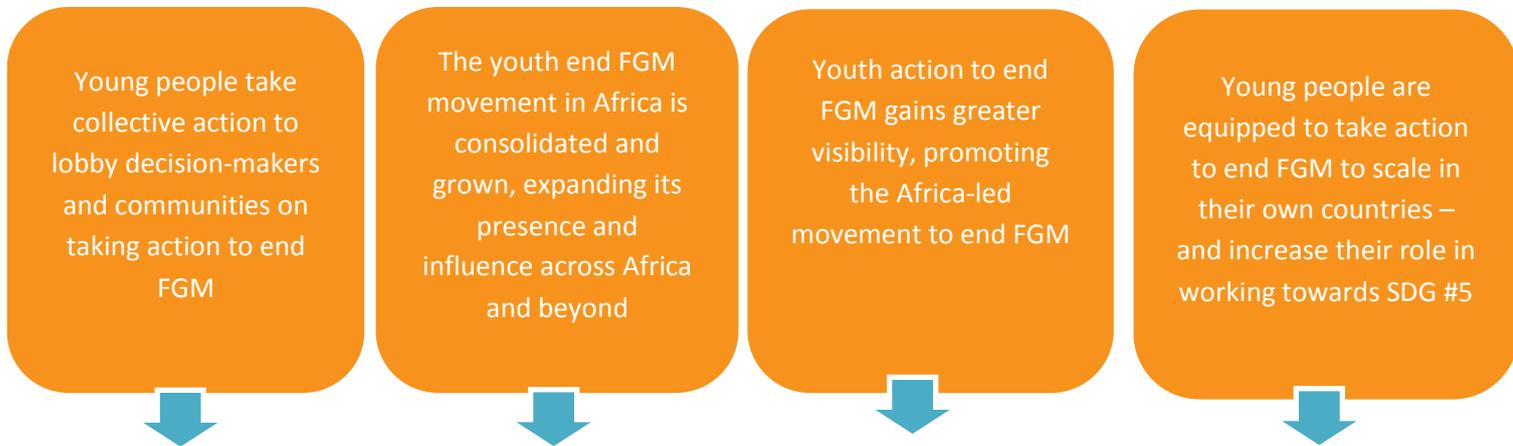
Who will attend?

Five young people from each of The Girl Generation's ten focal countries and from the UK and US diaspora will take part in the summit, alongside specifically selected ambassadors, leading activists and media experts.

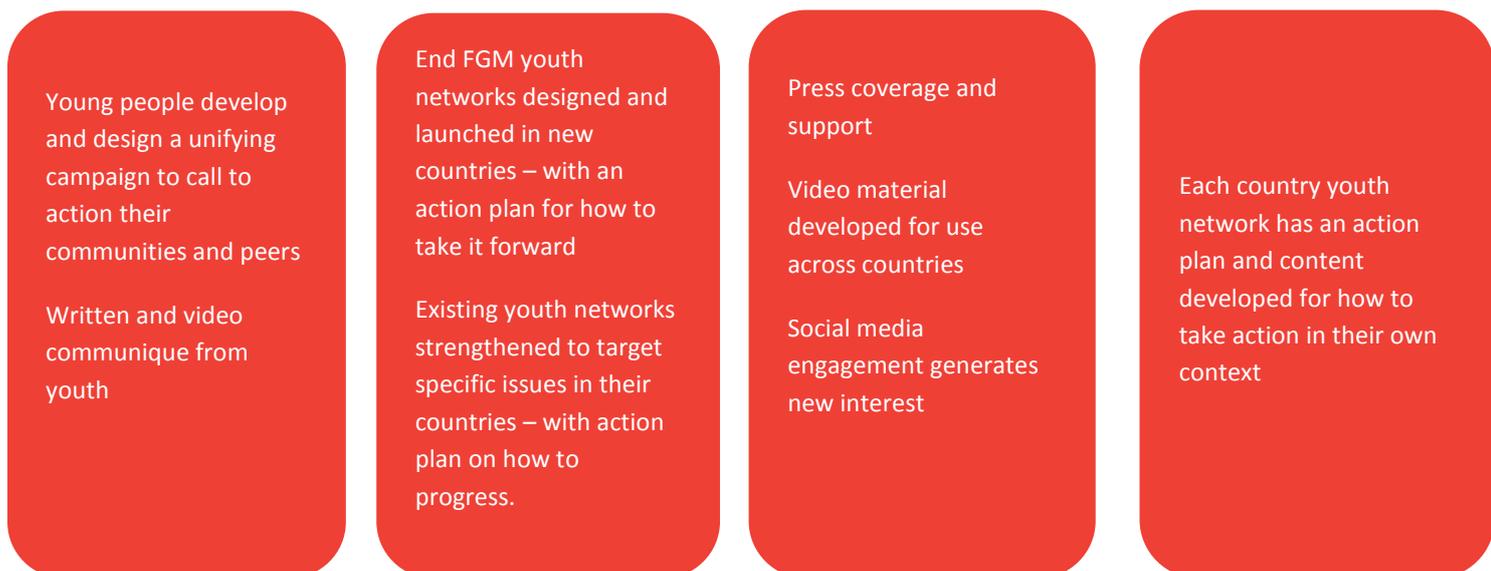
Aims and Outputs

This will be an innovative, youth-led summit which centres on action and learning, and equips participants to return to their countries inspired and ready to mobilise their peers in the movement to EndFGM.

Youth Summit Aims



Youth Summit Outputs



Proposed topic ideas

The summit will be organized around four tracks, with a focus on mutual learning, building solidarity and taking collective action as a pan-african youth network. Below we outline these tracks with some examples of what they could involve, with detailed agenda planning currently underway.

Many youth participants will be highly experienced campaigners with much to offer at the summit, so the focus will be on youth-led sessions. Participants will also be asked to prepare contributions in advance of the summit, so that the focus of the two days is on sharing experiences, developing messages and calls to action and identifying priorities for action.

Track 1 - Taking action

- Design and development of youth-led umbrella campaign
- Youth recommendations for Tackling FGM in a generation
- Country action planning as Country Youth networks
- Video filming – Story booth: “Imagine a world...” “Africa We Want” or “Future We Want”
- Live petition promoted on social media
- Live social media on key topics – each country targets their own youth audiences
- Media interviews with media throughout the summit, amplifying youth voices
- Grant application workshops OR “Our message to donors”
- Linking youth from across Africa and the diaspora – what can we do together?

Track 2 - Learning and sharing

- Youth networks so far – stories of success from youth networks to date, presented by participants
- Inspiration from other sources – focus on other youth campaigns which have gained support focusing on how to reach new audiences
- Activist café - story telling positive stories of change
- Research update – what do we need to know about ending FGM, understanding FGM in different countries, filling data gaps, sharing and making sense of existing data
- Do No Harm and Safeguarding – what you need to know
- Debate – challenging topic for engagement (e.g. (recommended by youth networks) What are the limits of FGM – sunni/ cosmetic piercing/ medicalisation?)
- Towards a multi-sectoral approach - “FGM and....” In depth Discussion about opportunities for collaboration - Intergenerational dialogue, Education, Health, Religious leaders, Donors

Track 3 - Skilling and equipping

Communications 101

- 1 hour quick fire sessions on social change communication with planning workshop
- Phase 1 – identify your personal and network sphere of influence
 - “My biggest potential” – if there was one audience and message, what would it be. Who, what, when, where, and key message –
- Phase 2 – choose your media – 1 hour rotations against each areas resulting in development of key campaign messages. (Campaign Clinic)

- Social media
- Media
- Do no Harm
- Storytelling through video and image
- Practice your pitch

Advocacy 101

- Understanding the SDGs – and FGM under Goal 5 (including visual materials for awareness raising)
- How to engage with governments, how to use media for advocacy etc.

Materials Development

- Work with small group of artists (designers/ producers/ musicians) to design materials for visibility and engagement e.g. infographics, video materials, posters etc.
- Poetry, music and art to celebrate the value of girl child and togetherness to #endFGM

Track 4 – Youth Leadership / Turn Up The Volume

Turn up the Volume is a **youth-focused** project that aims to strengthen **youth leadership of the end FGM movement** to accelerate social change. The Girl Generation strategy is to strengthen youth networks involved in the social movement to end FGM by building the capacity of young leaders, encourage and provide them with the materials to cascade the learning to their peers within their networks. This track will focus on:

- Sharing leadership tips for new and emerging end FGM leaders
- Explore opportunities for peer learning and support
- Developing a youth mentorship agenda to strengthen leadership for ending FGM

Principles for planning and preparation

These principles will guide planning and action for Youth#EndFGM2018

Youth-led: too many contexts are framed as youth-led, but end up with the same “requirements” to engage long lists of dignitaries, to the point that young people end up taking a back seat and are “talked at” rather than shaping and speaking with one another. This summit will be radically different – with young people from the Anti-FGM Youth Networks at the heart of planning and leading the event.

We will:

- Use social media and crowd-sourcing platforms to plan the festival from agenda to actions
- Not allow long speeches from dignitaries, other than those requested and briefed by youth people themselves.
- Limit non-youth attendance to those with a very specific role – ie. Leading a breakout session or invited by youth to engage on policy or other topics of discussion.
- Investigate and use innovative digital approaches to engage a wider audience

Action, not a talk/ listening shop: in bringing large groups of people together from across the continent, action and collaborative decision making will be prioritised to make sure that the summit has a clear output and goal, rather than a long list of inputs, speeches and panels. We will:

- Determine, in advance, clear outputs from the summit – chosen and led by the youth participants.
- Focus on inputs which train and equip youth in their work, and are defined by their own needs and priorities – such as communications training, campaign planning, advocacy and lobbying preparation.
- Prioritise learning and sharing successes
- Rather than talking about doing we will prioritise what can be done immediately whilst together at the summit
- Avoid long documents (!) and written reports – instead we will use innovative apps and platforms to share take outs and live reporting.

Virtual connections beyond the room: whilst aiming to bring together a wide selection of youth from across the African continent, the reality is that numbers will be limited due to budget and manageable numbers attending. We will aim to open up the summit to a wider audience through live streaming on social media – and interactive sessions with direct engagement from online audiences. We will:

- Livestream the event
- Develop sessions with interactive question times and debate
- Create time for collective social media action from the event (ie. Facebook live etc), Hackathons...
- Develop daily digests and updates to send out to virtual attendees
- Develop specific digital outputs from the summit for wider engagement

Increasing visibility and amplification at the heart: In bringing together leading youth activists from different countries, the level of experience and passion in the room will be high. The summit provides an excellent opportunity to increase visibility of youth action – both in terms of immediate communication from the event, but also to gather stories and develop interesting content to take forward into other areas of TGG’s work, as well as to promote the Youth Networks themselves.

We will:

- Plan and carry out the summit from the perspective of an external audience – how can this be shared? How can this provide content? E.g. sourcing and filming stories. Who could listen to this right away?
- Provide multiple opportunities for attendees to show case stories, with stories filmed and images taken.

Build partnerships and work with what already exists: rather than starting from scratch, the summit will aim to work with what already exists – positioning the movement to End FGM firmly within the broader issue of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. We will:

- Encourage youth to look at what opportunity and resources they DO have, instead of what needs to be created.
- Focus on collaboration and partnership with related sectors – and learn from their experience



For more information about Youth#EndFGM2018 please contact Judy Imbanga on J.imbanga@options.co.uksummit

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