



## Passport for parental protection against female genital mutilation

You should always carry this passport of parental protection against female genital mutilation with you when you travel abroad. In this way, you can show your family that in France female genital mutilation is a criminal offence punishable by several years' imprisonment.

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**Female genital mutilation is a crime** and a violation of human rights, with serious and permanent physical and psychological consequences for the girls and women concerned. In addition, when female genital mutilation is performed, the mutilated person is likely to die immediately due to severe blood loss or infection.



In France, the practice of female genital mutilation is a criminal offence punishable by up to 20 years' imprisonment.

In female genital mutilation, the external genitalia are partially or completely removed, and in the most severe form, the opening is almost completely sewn shut.

## What should I do with this passport?

You can take this passport of parental protection against female genital mutilation with you when you travel to your country of origin, and show it to your family.

The document states that female genital mutilation is a criminal offense in France, even if performed abroad, and explains that you risk up to 20 years' imprisonment if you perform genital mutilation on your daughter yourself, or if another person performs female genital mutilation and you fail to prevent it or contribute to it. You may also be refused entry to France or have your existing residence permit withdrawn.





## Criminal offence under articles 222-9 and 222-10 of the French Penal Code

Under French law, the practice of female genital mutilation is a criminal offence (**article 222-9 of the Penal Code**). Anyone who causes permanent mutilation or disability is liable to **10 years' imprisonment and a fine of 150,000 euros**. **Article 222-10 of the Penal Code increases the penalty to 15 years' imprisonment** if the mutilation is committed on a minor under the age of 15. **The same article stipulates that the penalty is increased to 20 years' imprisonment when the offence is committed on a minor under the age of 15 by a legitimate, natural or adoptive ascendant**, or by any other person with authority over the minor.

Female genital mutilation is also punishable if 1) it is practised abroad and the perpetrator is of French nationality, or 2) the girl or woman on whom the female genital mutilation is practised is French, or if her domicile or place of residence is in France.

Anyone who helps another person, in France or abroad, to perform female genital mutilation is also liable to prosecution.

*I, ....., am taking my female child born on ..... to ..... . Our departure date is ..... and our return date is ..... . I have been informed of the health risks and penal sanctions in France in the event of female genital mutilation. The foreign country to which I am taking my daughter may also have legislation against female genital mutilation. I hereby solemnly undertake, as protective parent, that my daughter will return unharmed by any stigma of female genital mutilation after this trip.*

*Signed at ..... .*

## What is female genital mutilation?



Female genital mutilation is a serious violation of human rights. It refers to all procedures resulting in partial or total removal of the external female genitalia and/or any other mutilation of the female genitalia performed for non-therapeutic purposes (WHO). Girls may lose a lot of blood or the wound may become infected, which can have **serious health consequences and even lead to death**.

- 1 Permanent pain, psychological trauma
- 2 Problems during childbirth
- 3 Sensory disturbances and pain during sexual intercourse

Women suffer from female genital mutilation not only because of the pain they experience throughout their lives, but also because of psychological trauma and problems during childbirth. They can also develop chronic kidney or urinary tract infections, and often suffer painful menstrual problems.

Physical and psychological injuries also seriously undermine the right of women and girls to sexual self-determination. Sexual intercourse is generally extremely painful and, due to the destruction of nerve tissue, sexual sensations may be severely reduced or even non-existent. **Once performed, female genital mutilation is generally irreversible.**

