



## **Resolution on Female Genital Mutilation (Montreal, 1994)**

The FIGO General Assembly,

**CONSIDERING** that Female Genital Mutilation (female circumcision) is a harmful traditional practice which is still prevalent in over 30 countries of the world, including areas of Africa, Asia and the Middle East;

**CONCERNED** about the serious adverse effects of this practice on the physical and psychological procedure performed on a child who cannot give informed consent;

**RECOGNIZING** that Female Genital Mutilation is a violation of human rights, as a harmful procedure performed on a child who cannot give informed consent;

**RECALLING** the 1994 World Health Assembly Resolution WHA47.10 welcoming the policy declarations to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on traditional practices by governments in countries where Female Genital Mutilation is practiced;

### **1. INVITES** Member Societies to:

(1) **URGE** their governments to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of ALL Forms of Discrimination Against Women, if they have not already done so, and to ensure the implementation of the articles of the Convention, if the Convention has already been ratified.

(2) **URGE** their governments to take legal and/or other measures to render this practice socially unacceptable by all sectors and groups in society.

(3) **COLLABORATE** with national authorities, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations to advocate, promote and support measures aiming at the elimination of female genital mutilation.

### **2. RECOMMENDS** that obstetricians and gynecologists:

(1) **EXPLAIN** the immediate dangers and long-term consequences of female genital mutilation to religious leaders, legislators and decision makers.

(2) **EDUCATE** health professionals, community workers and teachers about this harmful traditional practice.

(3) **SUPPORT** those men and women who want to end the practice in their families or communities.

(4) **ASSIST** in research for the documentation of the prevalence of the practice and its harmful consequences.

(5) **OPPOSE** any attempt to medicalize the procedure or to allow its performance, under any circumstances, in health establishments or by health professionals.