



Female genital mutilation in Africa: Politics of criminalisation

Tuesday 9 September 2025
09:30 EDT, 14:30 UK, 15:30 CET, 16:30 EAT

REGISTER HERE

Despite increasing legal prohibitions, female genital mutilation (FGM) continues to affect an estimated 92 million women and girls aged 10 and above across Africa.

This SRHM webinar explores *Female Genital Mutilation in Africa: Politics of Criminalisation*, a new book edited by Satang Nabaneh and published in February 2025, that confronts the persistent gap between legal reform and lived realities.

The book asks: **Why has criminalisation become the dominant response, despite its limited impact? And how do African governments navigate the global pressure to legislate versus local resistance?**

As the book highlights, “a critical analysis of dominant discourses surrounding criminalisation is imperative” in order to move beyond superficial legal fixes towards strategies rooted in context, community, and complexity.

With opening remarks by SRHM Chief Executive Eszter Kismödi, the conversation will feature a discussion with three contributing authors: Angela J Dawson, Samuel Kimani, and Laura Nyirinkindi, hosted by Satang Nabaneh, each offering grounded, regionally diverse, and interdisciplinary perspectives.

The book is available open access from Pretoria University Law Press (PULP) [here](#).



Satang Nabaneh

Beyond legislation:
Examining the efficacy of
criminalisation of female
genital mutilation in Africa



Angela J Dawson

Research and female genital
mutilation prevention:
Evidence from Africa



Laura Nyirinkindi

A case commentary on law and advocacy
for women in Uganda v the Attorney
General: Exploring the legal steps taken in
abolishing the practice of female genital
mutilation and challenges with
implementing the decision



Samuel Kimani

Medicalisation of female
genital mutilation/cutting:
Ethical dimensions