WHAT IS BODILY AUTONOMY?

Bodily autonomy is the fundamental human right to make informed decisions about and control one's own body, health, and future, without coercion, discrimination, or violence.

✗ Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM/C)

FGM/C is internationally recognized as a human rights violation and a severe form of gender-based violence that **takes away an individual's control over their own body**. FGM/C is most often performed on young girls between infancy and age 15, removing their ability to provide informed consent about undergoing this specific form of violence.

What is FGM/C?

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

✗ Forced Intersex Genital Surgeries / Intersex Genital Mutilation (IGM)

Forced Intersex Genital Surgeries or Intersex Genital Mutilation (IGM) is considered a human rights violation by the United Nations. It **takes away a child's control over their own body**, impacting their health, future, and causing lifelong emotional and physical consequences. Since IGM is often performed on children, and often infants, informed consent cannot be provided.

What is Intersex?

Intersex is an umbrella term for unique variations in reproductive or sex anatomy. Variations may appear in a person's chromosomes, genitals, or internal organs like testes or ovaries. Some intersex traits are identified at birth, while others may not be discovered until puberty or later in life.

✓ Gender-Affirming Care

Access to evidence-based healthcare is a universal human right. Rooted in informed consent and individualized care, **gender-affirming care provides an individual the opportunity to take ownership of their own body**, healthcare decisions, and future. Having equitable access to gender-affirming healthcare prevents discrimination and violence towards trans, gender non-conforming, and intersex communities and promotes more equitable, safe, and healthy societies.

What is Gender-Affirming Care?

Gender-affirming care is a holistic healthcare approach that supports a person in aligning their body, expression, and lived experience with their gender identity. Like other forms of healthcare, it is guided by evidence-based practices and clinical standards, and may include social, psychological, medical, or surgical support, depending on a person's needs and goals.

WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO BODILY AUTONOMY?

✓ Intersex people ✓ Transgender & Nonbinary people ✓ Children

✓ EVERYONE



	Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting	Forced Intersex Genital Surgeries / Intersex Genital Mutilation	Gender-Affirming Care
Fundamental Human Right	✗	✗	✓
Individual control over one's own body	✗	✗	✓
Informed decisions over one's own body, healthcare, and future	✗	✗	✓
Does not include coercion, discrimination, or violence	✗	✗	✓

Equality Now
A just world for all women and girls

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United Against Female Genital Cutting

END FGM/C
U.S. NETWORK

This resource was developed due to the contributions and feedback from The U.S. End FGM/C Network, Equality Now, Sahiyo U.S. and various other anti-FGM/C and TGNI movement builders and activists.