

NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE (NTC) UMW 2021 MISSION PROJECT

Help End the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Give Girls a Safe Place to Go When Refusing the Painful Tribal Procedure of FGM in Kenya

The 2016 *Book of Resolutions* of The United Methodist Church urges the eradication of sexual and gender-based violence.

Source: Female Genital Mutilation Fact Sheet (World Health Organization)
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs241/en/>

According to the World Health Organization, "female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for nonmedical reasons. FGM is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women."

Rationalized that the procedure will keep girls from straying outside of marriage, FGM is nearly always carried out on minors to keep girls and women from experiencing pleasure during sexual intercourse. FGM "has no medical benefits" and can cause harmful medical complications including "severe pain, shock, bleeding, recurrent bladder and urinary tract infections, infertility and an increased risk of childbirth complications and newborn deaths."



Pauline Ntombura, a leader in the Methodist Women's Conference of Kenya and spouse of Kenyan **Bishop Ntombura**, is asking if we feel the call to support the work she has begun with girls in Kenya who refuse to allow their tribes to perform female genital mutilation (FGM) on them.

A law prohibiting FGM passed in 2011, but the villages outside Kenya and across Africa still practice FGM. The practice in the villages is done on girls, ages birth to 15 years old. Girls who refuse the FGM procedure are banished from the tribe to fend for themselves with no place to go.

Local UMW Connections to Kenya

Our own **Cynthia Rives** of the NTC UMW and the National Vice President of UMW, as well as our missionary friend, **Jerri Savuto**, have been working to help the girls who have refused the FGM procedure and to end the practice of FGM in Kenya.

