



PRESS RELEASE



Sous le patronage de la
Commission suisse
pour l'UNESCO

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

TO MARK THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAMPAIGN TO END FISTULA AND THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END OBSTETRIC FISTULA ON 23 MAY, THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (GA-FGM) AND THE GENEVA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (GFMER) COMBINE THEIR EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR THAT CAUSE AND INVITE TO A DEBATE AT THE CLUB SUISSE DE LA PRESSE.

Geneva, 23 May 2013

In the developing world it is estimated that 2 to 3 million women are suffering from obstetric fistula. Obstetric fistula is a consequence of a difficult child delivery, conducted without medical assistance where the child ends up dying due to a lack of on-time access to a caesarian. The devastating and subsequent damages lead, for women who manage to survive, to a total urinary incontinence. These women, often very young, are inevitably rejected, stigmatized and have to confront alone their pain and suffering.

50,000 new cases will develop each year. Virtually eliminated in industrialized nations, the persistence of obstetric fistula is a sign of failure from public health systems in addressing obstetrical emergencies and a human rights tragedy. This disease can also be one of the devastating consequences of the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or rape as a weapon of war.

Dr Charles-Henry Rochat, head of the « fistula » program of the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) will present the global model of medical care he has developed during his field work over the past 15 years. In a joint-effort to raise awareness about this cause, the **Global Alliance against Female Genital Mutilation (GA-FGM)** in collaboration with the **Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER)** are happy to invite you to a debate at le Club suisse de la presse.

On this occasion, Mr Holger Postulart, of the Global Alliance against FGM (GA-FGM) will give information for the creation of the **first University Chair specializing on FGM**, an initiative supported by GIZ, the German Agency for International Cooperation. A premiere !



Panelists:

- Dr Charles-Henry Rochat, Director of the « fistula » program - GFMER Foundation
- Dr. Anne-Caroline Benski, Gynecologist-Obstetrician, HUG
- Holger Postulart, co-founder, GA-FGM
- Dr Luc de Bernis, Senior Maternal Health Advisor, UNFPA-Geneva
- Mrs Jacqueline Hatch, Arts professor - Geneva International School

Venue : Club suisse de la Presse (La Pastorale)

Date: Thursday, 23 May 2013, 11h30 am – 12h30 pm

Cocktail : 12h30 pm–13h30 pm , music, arts exhibition, buffet and wine tasting of organic wines

This conference is under the patronage of the Swiss commission for UNESCO.

Music, arts and wine tasting:

Yolande Ambiana and Philippe Ekeke a Cameroonian couple engaged against FGM will sing a capella. Discover an exhibition gathering the creations of the arts students of the Geneva International School along with the enigmatic portraits of women victim of violence, created by Nigerian artist Godfrey-Williams Okorodus. His paintings were exhibited in March 2012 at the Palais des Nations, in commemoration of Women's International Day.

Miss Julianna Aedo, the Swiss Ambassador of the GA-FGM's Youth Network will deliver a message sent by Malian singer and supermodel Inna Modja, victim of excision at the age of 4 years old, then reconstructed at 22 years old in France.

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The wines will be offered by Le Château la Croix des Pins, French producer of organic wines and official partner of the GA-FGM. The light meal and biological food are offered by Satoriz, Ferney-Voltaire, France.