



Donor
Direct
Action

GALKAYO
Education Center for Peace and Development

Dear Friends,

In my country Somalia, 98% of women have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), mostly because of long-held religious beliefs and cultural traditions. Families in Somalia fear their daughters won't be married if they remain uncircumcised.

The key to ending this horrific practice: education.

That is why the Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development (GECPD) is so important.

GECPD educates girls in Somalia. Hundreds of girls have been enrolled in classes and are being educated - helping to change hearts and minds in their community to end the practice of FGM from being passed down from generation to generation.

GECPD acts as a community hub - we educate young girls and work with their families, local governments and religious leaders. One sheikh has spoken out against FGM by issuing a fatwa against it, which is a real breakthrough for us.

But just recently 11 girls were forced to undergo female genital mutilation despite efforts by GECPD social workers who had been working with the families of these young girls to prevent this from happening. While most of the girls are now healing from the cut, two girls were severely injured and have been taken away. We don't know where they are, or how they are doing, but we hope they are safe.

So as we make progress, we also face setbacks.

Right now, GECPD needs your help to continue our work.

A donation of just \$60 will pay for school for one girl in Somalia for an entire year.

A donation of \$300 will pay an instructor's salary for an entire month.

As the school year ends in the United States and Europe, GECPD is working to enroll girls in school for the coming year. Your contribution right now will help ensure girls are ready to begin school later this year.

Your support will help us hire the teachers and social workers we need to work with students and engage with the community to educate parents and elders and to end FGM.



Hawa Aden Mohamed

We know this road will be long. But I know we must continue to fight, and fight even harder to ensure that our girls are protected in the future. It is the only way we will make change and end FGM.

With your help, you can ensure a better life for women and girls in Somalia.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'HAWA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hawa Aden Mohamed
Founder/Director

Donor Direct Action is a project of Equality Now.
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