

# Proclamation

*February 6, 2021*

## *International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation*

**Whereas** International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed around the world and provides an opportunity to honor those women, girls, boys and men who are actively and courageously working towards an end to this harmful practice.

**Whereas** this day invites us to reflect on the fact that 4.1 million girls are still at risk of mutilation each year, including girls in Canada.

**Whereas** on this day, we acknowledge that female genital mutilation is an issue in more than 90 countries and on every continent except Antarctica, and that there are at least 200 million FGM survivors in the world, including more than 100,000 in Canada.

**Whereas** we acknowledge that FGM has no basis in any religious text and is recognized by the United Nations and other world bodies as child abuse and an abuse of a girl's fundamental human rights.

**Whereas** we acknowledge that FGM has no benefits and causes only harm, including death, difficulties with urination, menstruation, sexual intimacy, post-traumatic stress disorder and increased maternal and child mortality.

**Whereas** on this International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, we acknowledge and celebrate all national and international efforts being made, especially at the grass roots level, to achieve United Nations Sustainable Millennium Development Goal #5, which calls for the elimination of FGM and other harmful traditional practices by 2030.

**Whereas** on this Day of Zero Tolerance, we call for increased, concerted global and Canadian action to end female genital mutilation, and ask all governments-international, national, and local- to fully uphold the human rights of women and girls so they can live a life free from the violence that is female genital mutilation.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Danny Breen, do hereby proclaim February 6, 2021 to be "International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM in the City of St. John's".**

**Signed at City Hall, St. John's, NL on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2021.**



**Danny Breen, Mayor**

**ST. JOHN'S**