



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 16
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

39 Dungarvan Road
Wellington 6037

24 January 2020

Health Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

By Hand

Kia ora,

I **attach** the submission of Zonta International District 16 Incorporated on the Crimes (Definition of Female Genital Mutilation) Amendment Bill.

Our contacts are:

- Souella Cumming, Zonta International District 16 Governor; and
- Helen Bowie, Zonta International District 16 Advocacy Chair.

We do not wish to make an oral submission before the Select Committee.

Ngā mihi,

Helen Bowie
Zonta International District 16 Advocacy Chair



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 16
EMPOWERING WOMEN
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TO: HEALTH COMMITTEE

**ON: CRIMES (DEFINITION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION)
AMENDMENT BILL**

24 JANUARY 2020

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This submission is from Zonta International District 16 Incorporated (*Zonta D16*).
- 2 We do not wish to make an oral submission before the Select Committee.

ABOUT ZONTA D16

- 3 Zonta D16 has been active in New Zealand for over 50 years.
- 4 Zonta D16 is an organisation of professionals empowering women through service and advocacy. We envision a world in which women's rights are recognised as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.

MAIN POINTS

- 5 Zonta D16 supports the provisions of the Crimes (Definition of Female Genital Mutilation) Amendment Bill (*the Bill*).

- 6 In particular, Zonta D16 believes that:

- 6.1 **The definition of "female genital mutilation" (FGM) in the Crimes Act should be updated**

The definition of FGM in section 204A of the Crimes Act 1961 needs to be updated to ensure all types of FGM are illegal in New Zealand and all women and girls are adequately protected from FGM.

- 6.2 **The new definition of FGM in the Crimes Act 1961 is appropriate**

Zonta D16 supports the new definition of FGM in the Bill. Zonta D16 notes that the Bill will update the definition of FGM in accordance with international best practice and in particular, the World Health Organisation definition.

The new definition in the Bill is also consistent with New Zealand's obligations to protect women and children as outlined in the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

CONCLUSION

- 7 Zonta D16 supports the Bill in its entirety.