



PROCLAMATION

"INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION" February 6, 2020

- WHEREAS: International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed around the world and provides an opportunity to honour those women, girls, boys and men who are actively and courageously working towards an end to this harmful practice; and
- WHEREAS: this day invites us to reflect on the fact that 3.9 million girls are still at risk of mutilation each year, including girls in Canada; and
- WHEREAS: on this day, we acknowledge that female genital mutilation is an issue on every continent except Antarctica, and that there are 200 million FGM survivors in the world, including thousands in Canada; and
- 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; and
- 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; and
- WHEREAS on this International Day of Zero Tolerance For FGM, 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; and
- 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, Councillor Don Bonner, Acting Mayor of the City of Nanaimo, do hereby proclaim the 6th day of February 2020 be known as:

" INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION "

in the City of Nanaimo

Councillor Don Bonner

ACTING MAYOR

Dated this 24th day of January 2020