

## Report to Corporate Services Committee

**To:** Chair and Members  
Corporate Services Committee  
**From:** Cathy Saunders, City Clerk  
**Subject:** Application – Issuance of Proclamation – International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation  
**Date:** January 18, 2021

## Recommendation

That, the Civic Administration BE ADVISED as to how Municipal Council wishes to proceed with the attached (Appendix “A”) Proclamation request.

## Previous Reports Pertinent to this Matter

Corporate Services Committee – December 3, 2019  
Corporate Services Committee – January 6, 2020

## Background

The Issuance of Proclamations Policy is attached as Schedule “A” for information purposes.

## Conclusion

The Civic Administration is seeking direction from the Municipal Council as to how they wish to proceed with the attached (Appendix “A”) proclamation request received January 13, 2021 from the End FGM Canada Network requesting February 6, 2021 be proclaimed International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation.

**Submitted by:** Cathy Saunders, City Clerk

**Proclamation Request Form**

Appendix "A"

Requests for the issuance of proclamations are governed by Council Policy (excerpted below). Requests must be received at least six (6) weeks in advance of the requested issuance date and may be emailed to the City Clerk at [ClerksApprovalRequests@london.ca](mailto:ClerksApprovalRequests@london.ca) or mailed to City Hall, P.O. Box 5035 LONDON, ON, N6A 4L9.

**Request details**

Name of Organization <b>End FGM Canada Network</b>
Date Proclamation Required <b>February 6 2021</b>
Proclamation Name <b>International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation</b>
Proclamation Type (day, week or month) <b>DAY</b>
Category (public awareness campaigns), (charitable fundraising campaigns), (arts and cultural celebrations) <b>Public Awareness Campaign, Celebration of a UN designated Day of recognition</b>
Requester Name <b>Giselle Portenier</b>
Requester Telephone Number
Requester Email Address
Requester Address <b>London, Ontario N6G 1R4</b>
<b>Provide details of your Organization's Connection to London</b>  <b>The End FGM Canada Network is working in every province to raise awareness about the issue of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) which affects upwards of 100,000 women in Canada. Every province and every city where immigrants from the more than 90 FGM/C practicing countries have settled has survivors and possibly girls at risk. London has immigrants from at least 11 countries where FGM/C is an issue. We advocate for support for survivors and protection for girls at risk. Last year we received proclamations from St. John's Newfoundland to Victoria B.C. as well as four provinces. This year we are hoping London will follow suit.</b>

**Required Supporting Documents**

- Detail information on the Organization-sent
- Detail information on the Event-sent-
- Confirmation of authorization from the Organization to submit the request

**The requestor is the Co-Founder of the organization, and a steering committee member with signing authority.**

The undersigned confirms that I am the Official Representative of the Organization requesting the Proclamation and that by signing this Application, I acknowledge and agree that my organization complies with all City of London's Policies and By-laws

Signature



Date February 12, 2021

**NOTICE OF COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Personal information collected on this form is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 and may also be used for purposes related to the Issuance of Proclamations Policy and Proclamation Request Form. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the City Clerk, 3rd floor, City Hall, 300 Dufferin Ave., London, ON N6A 4L9. Tel: 519-661-2489, ext. 4937, email: [csaunder@london.ca](mailto:csaunder@london.ca)

Dear Mayor and Council,

For the second year in a row, the End FGM Canada network is running a Canadian campaign to have February 6<sup>th</sup> recognized as the official day to honor survivors of female genital mutilation and those who are fighting against it. This year, we are hoping that your city will join the campaign by proclaiming February 6<sup>th</sup> as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation as designated by the United Nations. This year's theme is:

***No Time for Global Inaction: Unite, Fund and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation.***

Last year dozens of cities from coast to coast joined in the campaign and proclaimed the day, from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, B.C; four provinces also proclaimed the day. It was remarkable.

This year, we are looking to double the number of proclamations that were issued last year, and we hope we can count on you to help us reach that goal. The Province of British Columbia has already issued theirs, see attached!

As a bit of background--Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is a gross human rights abuse perpetrated on girls and women every 10 seconds of every day somewhere in the world. There are currently more than 200 million survivors worldwide, and **upwards of 100,000 in Canada**. There are also **girls at risk in Canada**, as confirmed in federal government documents. Female Genital Mutilation is extremely traumatizing, debilitating, and even causes death. There is evidence that girls in Canada are being taken outside of Canada for 'vacation cutting,' and that cutters may be being brought into Canada.

See the moving account from [Maryam Sheik](#), a survivor who lives in Newfoundland and who brought her daughter here to save her from FGM/C. Maryam, who is on our End FGM Canada steering committee, is urging Canadians to break the silence on this topic.

FGM is not a question of religion, ethnicity, or nationality. It's a question of human rights. FGM is practiced among many religions including Christianity, Islam, and Animists. It happens in Africa, the Middle East, South America, Asia, and the West—in short, it's an issue on **every continent except Antarctica**. A recent [Equality Now report](#) indicates that there are more than 90 countries worldwide where Female Genital Mutilation is an issue. See our recent campaign highlighting a few [surprising countries](#) where FGM /C is an issue. And the effect of COVID19 has been devastating. The UN estimates that an additional 2 million girls will be cut as a result.

February 6th has been proclaimed by the UN as the day where we focus attention on FGM, and we hope that this year it will be celebrated across Canada.

With these Canadian proclamations we are hoping to draw attention to this world-wide problem, and to raise awareness that this is an issue in Canada as well. In every Canadian province we

have immigrants from communities that practice FGM, including from countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia; there are bound to be FGM survivors even in **London**.

Giselle Portenier

Co-Founder

End FGM Canada Network



## **Issuance of Proclamations Policy**

**Policy Name:** Issuance of Proclamations Policy

**Legislative History:** Adopted September 19, 2017 (By-law No. CPOL.-115-367); Amended July 24, 2018 (By-law No. CPOL.-115(a)-418)

**Last Review Date:** January 6, 2020

**Service Area Lead:** City Clerk

### **1. Policy Statement**

1.1 This policy sets out the requirements for the issuance of proclamations.

### **2. Definitions**

2.1 Not applicable.

### **3. Applicability**

3.1 This policy shall apply to any request for the issuance of proclamations on behalf of the City of London.

### **4. The Policy**

4.1. Proclamations are ceremonial documents issued and signed by the Mayor on behalf of City of London Council that officially recognizes public awareness campaigns; charitable fundraising campaigns; and arts and cultural celebrations of organizations that reside/operate within the City of London. The requester must clearly identify the significance and connection of the proclamation to the mandate and goals as set out in the City of London's Strategic Plan. A proclamation does not constitute a personal or civic endorsement.

#### Application Process

- a) Proclamations requests are to be submitted on the City of London Application form to the City Clerk's Office at least six (6) weeks in advance of the requested issuance date.
- b) The Application must provide sufficient background information about the organization, cause or event being proclaimed and the proposed text for inclusion in the proclamation. The proposed text is subject to approval by the City of London to ensure compliance with City of London's policies and by-laws.
- c) Upon receipt of the Application, the City Clerk's Office will review the Application in accordance with this Policy and if the Application appears to be in compliance with the Policy, the Application will be placed on the next available Corporate Services Committee meeting for consideration.
- d) The Corporate Services Committee will review the Application and provide a recommendation to the Municipal Council for consideration with respect to the disposition of the Applications.

## SCHEDULE "A"

### Administration of Policy:

- e) The cause or event must contribute to the economic, social and cultural fabric of the City of London.
- f) Repeat requests must be submitted on an annual basis.
- g) An organization may request one proclamation per calendar year.
- h) Organization do not have exclusive rights to the day, week, or month being proclaimed.
- i) Proclamations of a similar topic will be issued on a first come first served basis.
- j) The City of London will not incur any expenses relating to the advertising or promotion of a proclamation. Recipients are responsible for the promotion of the proclamation, organization of related activities and for all associated costs.
- k) Proclamations will not be issued for:
  - Matters of political controversy, ideological or religious beliefs or individual conviction.
  - Events or organizations with no direct connection to the City of London.
  - Campaigns or events contrary to City of London policies or by-laws.
  - National, Independence or Republic Days.
  - Campaign or events intended for profit-making purposes.
  - Recognition of individuals.
  - Recognition of events or organizations that espouse discrimination, hatred, violence or racism.
  - Matters attempting to influence government policy.
  - Matters designed to incite hatred or disorder.
- l) The City of London reserves the right to refuse to issue a proclamation.