



CASW ACTS
Canadian Association of Social Workers / Association canadienne des travailleuses et travailleurs sociaux

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The Honourable Ahmed Hussen
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Hussen,

In my capacity as President of the Canadian Association of Social Workers, (CASW), I am writing to express deep concern that the section of the Canadian citizenship study guide that expressly addressed Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has been removed from the new, working draft of the guide.

As background for you, CASW is an organization that works to promote the profession and advance issues of social justice on the national level. To this end CASW respectfully requests that the Government of Canada make evident its position concerning Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the citizenship study guide: FGM is illegal in Canada, as it violates the basic human rights of children.

For new Canadians who may see FGM as a right of parents or their duty to a female child, CASW believes clearly explaining that this is a criminal act with consequences for the parents and the person harming the child provides emphasis that it is unacceptable.

CASW welcomes Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada's willingness to consult with stakeholders to make certain that the citizenship guide reflects how laws protect children in Canada. In this regard, CASW urges the Government of Canada to amend the working draft of Canada's citizenship study guide by clearly and emphatically prohibiting FGM with references to Canadians laws and to the existence of child welfare systems across the country charged with protecting children and youth from physical and sexual abuse.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. CASW looks forward to the actions that the Government of Canada will take to ensure that anyone seeking citizenship will be advised of protections afforded children and youth in Canada.

Sincerely,

Jan Christianson-Wood, MSW, RSW
President, CASW