



# PROCLAMATION

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION February 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

**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; and

**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; and

**WHEREAS** on this day, we acknowledge that FGM 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; 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 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 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.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Corporation of the Town of Aurora, hereby proclaims the day of **February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021** as **International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM**.

*Dated at the Town of Aurora  
This 8th, day of January, 2021.*