

Download Kiminta A Maasais Fight Against Female Genital Mutilation

Kiminta, a Maasai subjected to female genital mutilation, tells her personal story in order to encourage abandonment of a harmful tradition. Having moved to Germany, she espouses a human rights position, arguing for government accountability and application of international conventions to stop the disability and pain. Kate Agha of Oxford Against Cutting and Kameel Ahmady, author of *In the Name of Tradition. Female Genital Mutilation in Iran* (UnCUT/VOICES, 2016) also spoke to education, Kate outlining an art and film-making project with middle-schoolers, and Kameel revealing how epidemiological interviews correlated with a decreasing number of FGM victims. Raising the issue in a critical way serves both activism and research. The commotion: Parents demanding the return of their girls so they could go through the traditional female Maasai rite of passage, *ukeketaji*, to become a woman. That rite of passage for the girls is to undergo female genital mutilation (FGM) – a procedure that involves the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for cultural or other non-medical reasons. Olelein Kanunga is trying to persuade fellow Maasai warriors to take up the fight against female genital mutilation. Credit: Alex Kamweru. Dressed in colorful red, blue and white cloth, with necklaces of white beads adorning his chest, 28-year-old Ole Lelein Kanunga sings and dances with his fellow Maasai warriors.