



THE LAW AND FGM

ICELAND

DECEMBER 2021

National Legal Framework

Overview of National Legal Framework in Iceland

National legislation:

- ✓ Specific law/provision criminalising FGM
- ✓ Provides a definition of FGM
- ✓ Criminalises the performance of FGM
- ✓ Criminalises the procurement, arrangement and/or assistance of acts of FGM
- ✓ Obligation to report incidents of FGM to the authorities
- ✓ Criminalises the participation of medical professionals in acts of FGM
- ✓ Extraterritorial application regardless of double criminality

Introduction

Iceland is a Nordic island country in the North Atlantic Ocean with a population of approximately 370,000.¹ It is a unitary republic with a parliamentary democracy.

FGM Prevalence

There is no up-to-date information available on the prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Iceland, either for girls and women who have undergone FGM or those who are at risk of FGM.

National Legal Framework

Specific Provision in General Law

FGM is criminalised in Iceland under a specific provision on FGM in general criminal law, inserted in 2005. FGM is considered to be a special form of assault causing physical injury.

Article 218a of the General Penal Code (1940, amended 2015) (the *Criminal Code*) criminalises any person who, in an assault, causes physical injury to a girl or woman by removing her sexual organs, partially or entirely.

Article 218a prescribes that serious physical injury or health damage, the consequence of death or the usage of a particularly reprehensible method are aggravating circumstances.

Article 70 prescribes that a close relationship between perpetrator and victim – for example, parent and child – is also an aggravating circumstance.

Article 219 also criminalises FGM when it results from negligence. While the article does not specify specific scenarios in which this would apply, it would likely cover situations where a parent leaves their daughter alone with another family member who they know is in favour of FGM.

Definition of FGM

Icelandic law includes a definition of 'FGM'. **Article 218a of Criminal Code** defines FGM as removing a woman or a girl's sexual organs partially or entirely. This definition covers at least Types I, II and III FGM (according to the World Health Organization's definitions). However, it is not certain whether this would also cover Type IV FGM. For example, when the clitoral hood is pricked, no sexual organ is removed either partially or in its entirety.

Women and Girls of All Ages

The performance of FGM on women and girls of all ages has been criminalised in Iceland. **Article 218a of the Criminal Code** specifies 'a girl child or woman'.

Procuring, Aiding and Abetting

Procuring, aiding and abetting FGM are criminalised in Iceland through general criminal law. **Article 22 of the Criminal Code** states that any person who, by assisting in word or deed, through persuasion, encouragement or in any other manner contributes to the commission of an offence under the Criminal Code, shall incur the punishment prescribed for the offence.

Article 22 would, in any case, cover aiding and abetting; however, it is not clear whether procuring FGM would qualify someone as a 'perpetrator' or an 'accessory'. The Criminal Code does not include a provision defining 'joint commission of' or 'collaborating to commit' an offence, and the provisions on assault do not define it, either. However, **Article 70** does prescribe that collaborating in the commission of an offence is an aggravating circumstance.

Allowing the Use of Premises

Allowing the use of premises for the purpose of FGM is criminalised in Iceland through general criminal law. Someone who allows the use of premises for FGM assists in the commission of an offence by deed and is therefore punishable as an accessory under **Article 22 of the Criminal Code**.

Providing or Possessing Tools

Providing tools for the specific purpose of FGM is criminalised in Iceland through general criminal law. Someone who provides tools for the specific purpose of FGM also assists in the commission of an offence by deed and is therefore punishable as an accessory under **Article 22 of the Criminal Code**.

It is unclear whether possessing tools for the specific purpose of FGM is also a criminal offence in Iceland. **Article 20 of the Criminal Code** prescribes that any person who has resolved to commit a crime and has made this resolve clear by an act aimed at committing that crime, or designed for that purpose, is guilty of an attempted offence if the offence has not been brought to completion. This could apply to possessing tools for FGM, since the act is aimed at the commission of FGM and makes the resolve to do it clear. **Article 21**, on the other hand, states that an attempted offence shall not be punishable if the person abandons the commission of the offence out of free will. This suggests that the commission of the offence must have already started in some way. Simply possessing tools does not seem to qualify as starting the commission of FGM.

Failure to Report FGM

Failing to report FGM has not been criminalised in Iceland, as there is no mention of a duty to report offences in the Criminal Code.

At the same time, all people and professionals who work with children, in particular, have an obligation to notify the appointed authorities of FGM and risks of FGM under civil law.

Articles 16 and 17 of the Child Protection Act prescribe that all persons are obliged to notify a child protection committee if they have reason to believe or become aware that a child, *inter alia*, is exposed to violence or other degrading treatment.

Medicalised FGM

Medicalised FGM is criminalised in Iceland through general law. **Article 187 of the Criminal Code** contains general prohibitions for licensed professionals who violate the official obligations that accompany that licence. This would also apply to licensed medical professionals who perform FGM. However, the specific prohibition on FGM in **Article 218a** seems a more suitable provision to apply.

Extraterritoriality

The Criminal Code extends extraterritorial application to the commission of FGM abroad. **Article 5** prescribes that punishment shall be imposed if an Icelandic citizen or someone who was domiciled in Iceland commits an offence covered by Article 218a abroad, even if it is not considered a punishable offence under the laws of the state involved.

Interestingly, extraterritorial application is not extended to Article 219 (FGM through neglect), even though a girl usually runs the most risk if she is abroad with family in favour of FGM.

Penalties

Article 218a of the Criminal Code prescribes a basic maximum sentence of *six years' imprisonment* for FGM.

The same provision also prescribes that, if the FGM results in serious physical injury or health damage, or in death, or if it is considered particularly reprehensible due to the method used, the maximum sentence is *16 years' imprisonment*.

Article 218b states that, if a person has been previously convicted under Article 218a or for an offence otherwise connected with acts of deliberate violence, the maximum sentence may be *increased by a half*. At the same time, Article 218b prescribes that, where consent is given for the assault, the sentence may be reduced.

Article 219 prescribes a maximum sentence of *four years' imprisonment or a fine* for FGM resulting from neglect.

Article 70 prescribes that multiple people collaborating to commit the offence and the victim being a close relative of the perpetrator are aggravating circumstances, but it does not specify how this would alter the maximum sentence for an offence.

Article 22 states that an accessory will incur the punishment prescribed by the law for an offence. It is up to the discretion of a judge to assess the part an accomplice played and what a suitable punishment would be.

Protection

Protecting Uncut Girls and Women

As mentioned above, all persons are under an obligation to notify a child protection committee if they reasonably believe or know that a child is exposed to violence or other degrading treatment, under **Articles 16 and 17 of the Child Protection Act**.

Article 17 prescribes that the duty of a professional (including teachers, social workers, psychologists and medical professionals) to notify has precedence over professional confidentiality. Upon such a notification, a child protection committee may start an investigation into the case as prescribed under **Articles 21 and 22**.

After the investigation, when necessary, the child protection committee shall make a schedule for the handling of the case together with the parents and, where appropriate, the child. If that is not possible or if the measures are not effective, the child protection committee may decide on measures unilaterally.

Article 26 prescribes that if the child protection committee concludes that measures with the parents' consent are inadequate, the committee may:

- order monitoring of the home;
- order measures regarding circumstances and care of the child, such as day care, school attendance, medical service, tests, treatment or therapy;
- determine that parties such as childcare professionals and the police may be given information regarding the well-being of the child or the procedure of the case, if this is considered necessary in view of the child's interests; and
- rule that a child may not be taken out of the country.

Based on **Article 27**, the child protection committee may also choose to place the child out of home without the parents' consent for a period of two months. A court order is required under **Article 28** if a period longer than two months is required.

There are no specific protection measures for uncut women, apart from the prohibitions in criminal law.

Implementation of The Law

Court Cases

There are no Icelandic court cases in relation to FGM known to 28 Too Many.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

FGM is criminalised in Iceland under a specific provision in general criminal law, **Article 218a of the Criminal Code**. The definition of 'FGM' maintained in the law would at least cover Types I to III, but omits other types of injuries for non-medical reasons. **Medicalised FGM** is not specifically addressed, but is likely to be covered by the general criminality of FGM.

Procuring, aiding and abetting FGM are criminalised in Iceland under general criminal law.

There is an obligation for all persons to **report** to the authorities cases where FGM has been performed on a minor.

The Criminal Code extends **extraterritorial application** to the performance of FGM abroad, regardless of double criminality, in cases where the perpetrator has Icelandic nationality or is domiciled in Iceland.

Recommendations

We recommend that Iceland to order an inquiry into the prevalence of FGM and the number of girls and women possibly at risk of it.

We recommend that Iceland amend the definition of 'FGM' maintained in the law to fully correspond to the definition of FGM given by the WHO.

We also recommend that Iceland instate an obligation for (at least) relevant professionals and institutions to report cases where there are reasonable grounds to believe that FGM may be committed imminently.

Finally, we recommend that Iceland also extend extraterritorial application of Icelandic law to the performance of FGM abroad, regardless of double criminality, in cases where only the victim has Icelandic nationality or is a resident of Iceland.

Appendix I: International and Regional Treaties

ICELAND	Signed	Ratified/ Acceded	Reservations on reporting?
International			
International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights (1966) (<i>ICCPR</i>) ²	✓ 1968	✓ 1979	No
International Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (1966) (<i>ICESCR</i>) ³	✓ 1968	✓ 1976	No
Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) (<i>CEDAW</i>) ⁴	✓ 1980	✓ 1985	No
Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) (<i>CRC</i>) ⁵	✓ 1990	✓ 1992	No
Regional			
Istanbul Convention ⁶	✓ 2011	✓ 2018	No
European Convention on Human Rights ⁷	✓ 1950	✓ 1953	No

‘Signed’: a treaty is signed by countries following negotiation and agreement of its contents.

‘Ratified’: once signed, most treaties and conventions must be ratified (i.e. approved through the standard national legislative procedure) to be legally effective in that country.

‘Acceded’: when a country ratifies a treaty that has already been negotiated by other states.

Appendix II: National Laws

Icelandic Criminal Code

Art. 5

Punishment shall be imposed according to the Icelandic Penal Code for offences committed abroad by Icelandic citizens or by persons resident in Iceland as follows.

- 1) If the offence was committed in a place outside the criminal jurisdiction of other states under international law, provided that it was also punishable at the time under the law of the defendant's home state.
- 2) If the offence was committed in a place under the criminal jurisdiction of another state under International law, provided it was also punishable at the time under the law of that state.

The provisions of the first paragraph may be applied to deeds by a person who is a citizen of Denmark, Finland, Norway or Sweden, or is domiciled there, and who is resident in Iceland.

In the instances covered in item 2 of the first paragraph, punishment shall be imposed under the Icelandic Penal Code for offences committed by a person who was an Icelandic citizen, or was domiciled in Iceland, at the time of the deed, which are covered by the second, third or fourth paragraph of Article 206, the first paragraph of Article 210 b, Article 218 a and item 2 of the first paragraph of Article 227 a, and were committed abroad even if the deed is not considered a punishable offence under the laws of the state involved. The same shall apply to violations committed against a child under the age of 15 which come under Article 194, 197- 198, 200-201 and the first paragraph of Article 202, and offences under the first paragraph of Article 210 a, providing they involve the production of items listed there.

Art. 20

Any person who has resolved to commit an act punishable under this Act and has clearly demonstrated this resolve by an act aimed at commission or designed as such is, if the offence has not been brought to completion, guilty of an attempted offence.

For an attempted offence, a more lenient punishment may be imposed than for a completed offence. This shall, in particular, be done in cases where the attempt indicates that the offender is less dangerous and his/her resolution not as firm as that of persons who bring such offences to completion.

If, in terms of the interests targeted or the act itself, the attempt could not have resulted in the offence being brought to completion, it may be decided that punishment is to be waived.

Art. 21

Punishment for an attempted offence shall be waived if the person guilty of it abandons, of his or her own accord, the decision to commit the offence before it is brought to completion, providing its commission was not aborted or obstructions or other accidental circumstances did not prevent the attainment of the intended result and, assuming that the perpetrator, through his or her action, caused or believed he or she had caused, a danger that the offence would be brought to completion, he or she moreover prevented this, or took measures which would have prevented it, if the completion of the offence had not been hindered in another manner, without his or her knowledge, or been impossible.

Art. 22

Any person who, by assisting in word or deed, through persuasion, encouragement or in any other manner, contributes to the commission of an offence under this Act shall incur the punishment prescribed for the offence.

If the share of a contributor to the offence is minor, or if it consists of strengthening another person's resolve that has already been formed, and if the offence is not brought to completion or if the intended participation in it is unsuccessful, the contributor may be sentenced to a more lenient punishment than is prescribed in law for the offence.

Under the circumstances described in the second paragraph, and also if a person has chanced by negligence to participate in an offence, punishment may be waived if the offence falls under a punitive provision in which the prescribed punishment is not greater than [up to one year's imprisonment].

If the offence is brought to completion, a person who provides the actual perpetrator or another person with assistance in maintaining an unlawful situation that has come into being as a result of the offence, or who derives profit from it, shall be punished according to the provisions of this Article providing that his or her actions are not covered by other provisions in law.

Art. 70

When punishment is decided, the following factors, in particular, are to be considered.

1. The importance of the object of the offence.
2. The extent of the damage or loss caused.
3. How much of a threat the action posed, particularly when consideration is given to when, where and how it was carried out.
4. The age of the perpetrator.
5. The perpetrator's former conduct.
6. The strength and degree of the perpetrator's resolve.
7. The perpetrator's motive.
8. The perpetrator's conduct after committing the offence.
9. Whether the perpetrator gave information on the participation by other persons in the offence.

Where more than one person collaborated in the commission of the offence, this shall normally be considered as aggravating the punishment.

If the action was directed against a man, woman or child closely related to the perpetrator, and the relationship between them is considered as having aggravated the seriousness of the offence, this shall normally be considered as aggravating the punishment.

Art. 187

Any person who receives an official licence to pursue a particular private activity or business operation which may not be pursued without such a licence and who then violates the official obligations that accompany the licence shall be fined or [imprisoned for up to 6 months] if no particular punishment is prescribed for the offence in other statutes.

Art. 218a

Any person who, in an assault, causes physical injury or damage to the health of a girl child or woman by removing her sexual organs, partly or in their entirety, shall be imprisoned for up to 6 years. If the assault results in serious physical injury or health damage, or in death, or if it is considered particularly reprehensible due to the method used, punishment for the offence shall take the form of up to 16 years imprisonment.

Art. 218b

Where a person convicted of a violation of Article 217, 218 or 218a has previously been punished under those articles or has been punished for an offence otherwise connected with acts of deliberate violence, the punishment may be increased by up to one half.

Where consent is given for an assault, this will mean that the punishment that would otherwise apply may be reduced. Where the offence falls under Article 217, punishment shall not be applied where it is demonstrated that consent was given.

If assault takes place in the course of a scuffle or fight between the perpetrator and the victim, punishment may be reduced or even waved where the offence falls under Article 217. The same applies if the injured party initiated the fight by an attack, making irritating remarks or similar actions.

Art. 219

Where physical injury or damage to health as covered by Article 218 or Article 218 a results from negligence on the part of another person, punishment shall take the form of a fine or imprisonment of up to 4 years.

Child Protection Act

Art. 16

All persons shall be obliged to notify a child protection committee if they have reason to believe that a child:

- a) is living in unacceptable circumstances of upbringing,
- b) is exposed to violence or other degrading treatment or
- c) is seriously endangering his/her health and maturity.

Furthermore, all persons are obliged to notify a child protection committee if there is reason to believe that the health or life of an unborn child is being endangered due to the unacceptable or dangerous life-style of an expectant mother, e.g. in the form of alcohol abuse or the consumption of drugs, or when an expectant mother is exposed to violence, or if there is reason to suspect that an expectant mother is exposed to violence, or of any incidents which may be regarded as falling within the child protection committee's concerns.

Art. 17

All persons involved in matters concerning children or expectant mothers, through their position or occupation, are obliged to notify a child protection committee, if they become aware of circumstances as described in Article 16.

Pre-school heads and teachers, child-minders, school heads, teachers, clergy, physicians, dentists, midwives, nurses, psychologists, social workers, developmental therapists, and those providing social services or counselling are under an especial obligation to monitor the behaviour, upbringing and conditions of children as far as possible, and to inform the child protection committee if the child's circumstances appear to be of the nature described in the first paragraph. The duty of notification provided in this Article takes precedence over provisions in law or codes of ethics on confidentiality within the relevant professions.

Art. 21

When a child protection committee is notified or receives information by other means that a child's physical or mental health or maturity may be at risk due to neglect, incapacity or behaviour of a parent, violence or degrading conduct by other parties or due to the child's own behaviour, or that the health or life of an unborn child is being endangered as described in Article 16 the committee shall decide without delay, and not later than seven days from receipt of the notification or other information, whether there is reason to initiate investigation of the case.

The child protection committee may, on the same conditions, initiate investigation of a case due to information received by other means.

No appeal may be made, either to [the Welfare Appeals Committee or to any other authority, against a decision by a child protection committee to commence the investigation of a case or not to commence an investigation. The child protection committee shall inform the parents that a notification has been received, and inform them of the committee's decision in response to it within a week of the taking of the decision. Notification of parents may be postponed if exigent interests of the investigation so demand. The child protection committee shall also give notifying parties confirmation that their notifications have been received, and give general information on the procedures following the notification.

A decision to initiate an investigation shall not be made unless there is probable cause to suspect that this is justified. A case shall be regarded as a child protection case when a formal decision to initiate an investigation has been made.

Further provisions on procedures with regard to notification, e.g. on records, forms, etc., shall be made in regulations issued by the Minister on receipt of proposals from the Government Agency for Child Protection.

Art. 22

The objective of investigating a case is to gather necessary information on the child's circumstances, and assess the need for measures as provided in this Act, in keeping with the interests and needs of the child. For this purpose the committee shall strive to gather the clearest information on the circumstances of the child, such as mental and physical condition, relationship with parents or others, circumstances of the parents, the child's conditions in the home, schooling, behaviour and mental and physical wellbeing. Specialist assistance shall be called upon as necessary.

With regard to investigation of cases, child protection committees' investigative powers, the obligation to provide child protection committees with information, and procedures of child protection committees in general, the provisions of Section VIII of this Act shall apply.

Art. 26

Should measures as provided in Articles 24 and 25 not have proved efficacious in the view of the child protection committee, or, if applicable, if the child protection committee has reached the conclusion that such measures are inadequate, the committee may, against the parents' will, by means of a ruling:

- a) order monitoring of the home,
- b) order measures regarding circumstances and care of the child, such as day-care, school attendance, medical service, tests, treatment or therapy,
- c) determine that parties that are involved in matters concerning the child in question, and that are named in the second paragraph of Article 17 and Article 18, may be given information regarding the well-being of the child or the procedure of the case if this is considered necessary in view of the child's interests,
- d) rule that a child may not be taken out of the country.

Arrangements under the first paragraph shall invariably be temporary, shall not continue longer than necessary at any time, and shall be reviewed at intervals of not more than six months. Parents may appeal rulings to [the Welfare Appeals Committee.

Art. 27

On the same conditions as those stated in Article 26, and if justified by compelling interests of the child, a child protection committee may by a ruling, against the will of parents or of a child aged at least 15:

- a) rule that a child shall remain where he/she is resident for up to two months,
- b) rule that a child shall be removed from the home for up to two months, and on necessary arrangements, such as the placement of the child in foster care or in a home or institution, or seek other measures under Sections XIII and XIV to ensure the child's safety, or in order that suitable tests on the child may be carried out, and necessary treatment and care may be provided.

Parents, or a child aged at least 15, may appeal the ruling of a child protection committee to a district court judge. Such an appeal must reach the judge within four weeks of the ruling being made. An appeal to the courts does not prevent the implementation of the child protection committee's ruling.

Court procedure is as provided in Section XI.

Art. 28

If a child protection committee deems necessary that an arrangement under items a and b of Article 27, last longer than provided there, the committee shall submit this matter to the district court. A child may be placed outside the home by means of a court order for up to twelve months at a time, from and including the date on which the court order is delivered.

If an extension of placement outside the home under Article 27 or Article 28, or the deprivation of custody under Article 29, is requested before a placement period ends, the placement arrangement shall remain in force until the ruling or court judgement has been delivered.

Court procedure shall be as provided in Section XI.

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- 1 Statistics Iceland (2021) *Population by municipality, age and sex 1998-2021 – Division into municipalities as of 1 January 2021*. Available at https://px.hagstofa.is/pxen/pxweb/en/lbuar/lbuar_mannfjoldi_2_byggdir_sveitarfelog/MAN02005.px/table/tableViewLayout1/?rxid=d283aec7-6564-4de7-a396-41ece8c973aa (accessed 31 May 2021).
 - 2 *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966) United Nations Treaty Collection: Status of Treaties. Available at https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-4&chapter=4&clang=_en (accessed 31 May 2021).
 - 3 *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966) United Nations Treaty Collection: Status of Treaties. Available at https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-3&chapter=4 (accessed 31 May 2021).
 - 4 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (1979) United Nations Treaty Collection: Status of Treaties. Available at https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4&clang=_en#9 (accessed 31 May 2021).
 - 5 *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989) United Nations Treaty Collection: Status of Treaties. Available at https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&clang=_en (accessed 31 May 2021).
 - 6 - Council of Europe (2021) *Chart of signatures and ratifications of Treaty 210, Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*. Available at <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/197/?module=signatures-by-treaty&tratynum=210> (accessed 31 May 2021).
 - Council of Europe (2021) *Reservations and Declarations for Treaty 210, Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*. Available at <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/197/?module=declarations-by-treaty&numSte=210&codeNature=0> (accessed 31 May 2021).
 - 7 - Council of Europe (2021) *Chart of Signatures and Ratifications of Treaty 005, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*. Available at [coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/005/signatures?module=signatures-by-treaty&tratynum=005](https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/005/signatures?module=signatures-by-treaty&tratynum=005) (accessed 31 May 2021).
 - Council of Europe (2021) *Reservations and Declarations for Treaty 005, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*. Available at <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/005/?module=declarations-by-treaty&numSte=005&codeNature=0> (accessed 31 May 2021).

Cover images: Image of Iceland from Canva stock library.
 Prostooleh (undated) *Happy black girl in blue dress and black makeup on city street. Fashion female in town. Black ethnicity girl in jeans. Young female with beauty face in city spring park.*
 123RF ID 124467703.

Please note that the use of a photograph of any girl or woman in this report does not imply that she has, nor has not, undergone FGM.

This report analyses and discusses the application of national (criminal) laws to the commission of FGM and any possible related crimes. It also explores other legal factors deemed relevant, such as legal obligations to report the commission or likely upcoming commission of FGM, available legal protective measures for girls and women at risk of FGM, and any obligations of national governments in relation to FGM.

The initial research conducted for this report consisted of a questionnaire developed by 28 Too Many and Ashurst LLP. The information contained in the responses to that questionnaire was then reviewed by Middelburg Human Rights Law Consultancy, updated and used as the basis of further research from relevant sources. This report is mainly based on primary legal sources such as legislation, case law and authoritative literature, but does use secondary sources such as government documents, journal articles and newspaper articles.

This report has been prepared as a work of legal research only and does not represent legal advice in respect of any of the laws of Iceland. It does not purport to be complete or to apply to any particular factual or legal circumstance. It does not constitute, and must not be relied or acted upon as, legal advice or create an attorney-client relationship with any person or entity. Neither 28 Too Many, Ashurst LLP and Middelburg Human Rights Law Consultancy nor any other contributor to this report accepts responsibility for losses that may arise from reliance upon the information contained herein, or any inaccuracies, including changes in the law since the research was completed in August 2021. No contributor to this report holds himself or herself out as being qualified to provide legal advice in respect of any jurisdiction as a result of his or her participation in this project or contribution to this report. Legal advice should be obtained from legal counsel qualified in the relevant jurisdiction/s when dealing with specific circumstances. It should be noted, furthermore, that in many countries there is a lack of legal precedent for the penalties laid out in the law, meaning that, in practice, lesser penalties may be applied.

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