

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my two supervisors, Dr. Snežana Stanković, who supported me during her own research on the topic of FGM_C, and Prof. Dr. Darja Zavirsek. I would also like to express my thanks to my mother and my friends, who tirelessly supported, encouraged, and prayed for me throughout all phases of my research.

Abstract

ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL-POLITICAL AND PROFESSIONAL DISCOURSE REGARDING FGM_C IN GERMANY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK

An Abstract of the Thesis by
Marie Magdalena Heinrich

This research conducts a critical discourse analysis of the legal-political and professional discourse regarding FGM_C (female genital mutilation and cutting) in Germany. The analysis reveals how colonialist perspectives continue to prevail while the voices of those affected remain marginalized. In this study, postcolonial theory, intersectionality, and the empowerment approach are applied. The study contributes to the field of social work by providing insights into how women and girls who have undergone FGM_C or are at risk are addressed and whether their voices are listened to. This research aims to serve as an impetus to combat this imbalance and advocate for practices that implement laws and guidelines in a way that benefits those affected. The thesis concludes with a call for commitment to human rights and to centralize marginalized voices, making recommendations for the profession of social work.