



## His Holiness Syedna Taher Fakhruddin

Head of the Dawoodi Bohra Community

23.01.2023

**Kind Attn.: Shri. P. K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to Hon. Prime Minister of India.**

Dear Prime Minister Modi ji,

With greetings and best wishes.

In your recent national executive meeting, you asked party workers to reach out to minorities including the Dawoodi Bohras. As the Dawoodi Bohra leader, I am encouraged by this development and look forward to having a dialogue with you on areas of public interest.

In particular, the Dawoodi Bohra community has been in the limelight recently because of the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM). I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my position and unequivocally condemn the practice of FGM. I also call on the government to introduce legislation to ban the practice and make FGM illegal.

Additionally, I would like to bring to your attention a separate practice called '*khafz*' which is different from FGM, and has been practiced in our faith. This practice has also drawn considerable attention from activists. A few years ago, women from our community came to me, highlighting their legitimate concerns regarding the unhygienic, unsanitary and unsafe conditions under which it is routinely carried out on young girls without their consent and which can lead to lifelong medical complications and trauma.

In response to these concerns, I issued a public directive banning *khafz* on young girls and I instructed all community members to stop this practice. My directive instructed women in the community to wait until had they reached the age of majority and could make a conscious choice to undergo *khafz*, should they wish to do so under appropriate conditions including medical supervision.

The *khafz* procedure is analogous to Clitoral De-Hooding (CDH), which is a medically sanctioned and fairly common procedure, especially in the West. It is not the removal of part of the clitoris as inaccurately reported by some media outlets. The purpose of this procedure is to improve a woman's sexual health. It is performed by qualified surgeons in a clinical environment. ((<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/treatments/22259-clitoral-hood-reduction>))

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to continuing to engage with you to address matters which concern our nation and its citizens.

Sincerely,

**Syedna Taher Fakhruddin**

Head of the Dawoodi Bohra Community

Hon. Prime Minister of India.

7, Lok Kalyan Marg,

New Delhi – 110001.

Correspondence Add.: Darus Sakina (Madhuban Bunglow), Pokhran Rd. No.1, Upvan, Thane (W) 400606, INDIA  
Saify Mahal, A. G. Bell Rd, Malabar Hill, Mumbai 400006, INDIA

Telephone : +91-22-25856076 • Email : [secretariat@fatemidawat.com](mailto:secretariat@fatemidawat.com) • Website : [www.fatemidawat.com](http://www.fatemidawat.com)