23 March 2016

To,

His Holiness Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin,

Re: Eradicating Khatna/Khafd amongst girls in the Bohra community.

We would like to extend our heartiest gratitude to you for issuing the latest resolutions in the various states of the United States of America asking the Bohras residing there to abstain from female circumcision as it is against the laws of that land. Last month such resolutions were issued in Australia and the UK.

This is indeed a very positive and far sighted move for as it is said in the decree we Bohras believe in Hubbul Watan Minal Iman as per the prophet Mohammed Rasullah’s hadith.

India however is the headquarters of His Holiness Syedna and the majority of the Dawoodi Bohra community reside here. We therefore urge you to issue a decree for all Bohras from India. Hubbul Watan Minal Iman calls for an end to khatna in India, where the largest numbers of Bohras reside.

India is a signatory to the CEDAW (The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women), CRC (Convention of the Rights to the Child) and a signatory of a United Nations resolution of December 2012 for elimination of FGM from member states. Furthermore there are several sections in the Indian Penal Code which can be seen as being violated by the act of female genital cutting or khatna at the age of seven.

We would like to once again reiterate that the physical and psychological pain inflicted by female circumcision/khatna is lifelong. Because as children the shock and trauma of being subject to circumcision of an extremely sensitive genital part, without being told, the subsequent pain and shame associated with it, combined with secrecy has left indelible scars on our psyche. We request you to take cognizance of our voices.

Given that the Bohra community is one community spread across the whole world, one single directive from your Holiness would bring the community together as one. We, the undersigned Dawoodi Bohra women request you to pay heed to our pleas by calling for an eradication of the practice of khatna/female circumcision among all Bohras residing in any part of the world.

Salaam,

Respectfully yours,

Signed