

Why Am I So Angry At My family?

Words From The Survivor

"I was with my mom and my aunt when it happened. They told me and my cousin that it was just a regular doctor's appointment. We walked into a tiny clinic and I was quickly put under anesthesia. All I remember is waking up in my bed at home.

"My mother told me to stay in bed and not to move too much. For days, my family came over to shower me with candy and gifts. Meanwhile, I laid in bed throughout the pain and confusion. Looking back now, it was a distraction. I had so many questions, but no one was answering me. Eventually, I stopped asking and mentioning it altogether.

"It wasn't until high school that I started reading about khitan (cutting). I guess that's when my anger really began. I learned that it had no roots in religion and was more of a cultural practice to prove a woman's virginity to her husband. Why is it only a woman's duty? Why does it have to happen to young girls who have no control over their bodies? My mother and aunt were supposed to protect me, but in fact they betrayed me.

"I'm a grown woman now, and my khitan still affects my relationships. It takes me longer to enjoy sex. I'm 31 years old and still healing. If I could talk to other survivors, I would let them know it's their right to be angry. What happened to us is a form of abuse and coming to terms with that is part of the healing process."