

Question for written answer E-006031/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Hymenoplasty, a form of abuse which is undermining women's rights and fuelling a lucrative market

In various Member States, the number of hymenoplasty operations, which involve repairing the hymen to restore women's 'virginity', is rising sharply. While some of these operations are perfectly justified following a sexual assault, the majority seem not to serve any medical purpose.

In fact, this operation is often carried out in response to pressure from relatives (particularly in-laws, for whom the only proof of virginity is blood-stained sheets on the wedding night) insisting on the virginity of a future wife in the context of a religious marriage. This reflects an archaic view of women, drawn from radical Islam.

Moreover, there is now a very lucrative market in these operations, forcing desperate women to pay several thousand euros.

As this practice is a violation of women's fundamental rights and ethical standards, does the Commission intend to:

1. condemn the practice of carrying out unjustified hymenoplasties and promote a ban on performing them in the EU?
2. recommend that Member States penalise practitioners responsible for this abuse of women?