

ITP: **Tanzania 2008**

Faculty Advisor: **Audra Wilson and Monica Llorente**

Research Group Members: **Tameka Beckford-Young, Fletcher Brown, Jillian Crawford, Jacqueline Hall**

Paper Title: **Synergies Through A Coalition: Breathing Life Into Anti-FGM Legislation in Tanzania**

Abstract: The failure of the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act of 1998 (“SOSPA”) to eradicate female genital mutilation (“FGM”) in Tanzania evidences the struggle between culture and law. While Non Government Organizations (“NGOs”) have established initiatives designed to educate the public and practicing communities, support the legal system, and provide valuable studies on the prevalence of FGM, the actions/inaction of the Tanzanian government and community have undermined these efforts. This comment will examine the failures of SOSPA attributable to government entities, the cultural barriers to enforcement, and the efforts of NGOs. It will assert that a coalition amongst the government, community and NGOs will capitalize on the strengths and resources of each entity, breathing life into the existing law and changing cultural attitudes. Working together, the coalition can shed light on this cultural practice, ensuring it becomes a matter of public importance.