

Exploring the Aftermath of Infant Male Circumcision

A review of findings from the 2012
Global Survey of Circumcision Harm
Ask the right questions. Reveal the harm.

Tim Hammond, Independent Researcher
www.CircumcisionHarm.org

presented at
International Conference on Men’s Issues
London, England 8-10 July 2016

Presentation contains graphic still images of adult male genitalia (flaccid/erect)

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Can you spot which of these babies were born
without the right to all of their healthy body parts?

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If you didn't say NONE, we have a problem.

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Human Genital Mutilation Setting the record straight

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FORMS OF MALE & FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING
FROM MOST DAMAGE TO LEAST DAMAGE DONE

MGC Type III	Removal of all Tissues - Including Scrotum
FGC Type III	Infibulation & Partial Clitoris Removal
FGC Type III	Infibulation
FGC Type II (c)	Partial Clitoris Removal & Labiaplasty-Minora & Majora
FGC Type II (b)	Partial Clitoris Removal & Labiaplasty-Minora
FGC Type I (b)	Partial Clitoris Removal
MGC Type IV	Subincision
FGC Type IV	Cauterization
MGC Type II	Complete Prepuce Removal [Most Common GC in U.S.]
MGC Type I	Prepuce Removal Beyond Glans
FGC Type I (a)	Prepuce Removal “Hoodectomy”
FGC Type II (a)	Labiaplasty-Minora
FGC Type IV	Scraping
FGC Type IV	Incising
FGC Type IV	Piercing
FGC Type IV	Pricking [AAP Proposed “Ritual Nick” in U.S.]

DRMOMMA.ORG
IDEA CREDIT: FREEDOMSPEECH ON YOUTUBE
 SOURCES: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND ALDEER, SAMI A. (2001) “MALE & FEMALE CIRCUMCISION.”

The most common form of MGC that we know as ‘circumcision’ [Types I and II] is actually *more* severe than the most common forms of FGC [Types Ia, IIa, and IV].

←

Circumcision of boys is “significant harm” and more damaging than mild forms of female genital mutilation.

Sir James Munby
 President, Family Division, Royal Courts of Justice
www.inside-man.co.uk/2015/01/15/male-circumcision-can-be-worse-than-fgm-rules-senior-judge/

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Philippines: *Tuli* – South Africa/Xhosa: *Ulwaluko*

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South Africa:
www.ulwaluko.co.za/Home.html

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Turkey: *Sünnet/Kataan*

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Muslim: *Khitan/Khatna/Kataan/Sünnet* – Jewish: *Brit Milah*

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USA/Canada/Australia: Circumcision
 Circumstraint™ Board Olympic Medical - Seattle, WA (USA)

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Scope of the Problem: Childhood Genital Mutilation

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Worldwide (very conservative)	Male	Female
Genitally mutilated persons living	650 million	100 million
Percentage of each gender mutilated	23%	5%
United States (no central registry)	Male	Female
Infants circumcised annually	1.25 million	N.A.
Infants circumcised daily (1 every 26 seconds)	3,300	N.A.
Estimated Circumcisions: 1940 to 1990 ⁽¹⁾	66 million	N.A.
Complication Rate ⁽²⁾	2%-10%	N.A.
Estimated U.S. Complications ⁽³⁾	1.3 – 6.6 million	N.A.

⁽¹⁾ *Estimated U.S. Incidence of Neonatal Circumcision Complications (physical only) Affecting Males Born between 1940 and 1990.* www.noharmm.org/incidenceUS.htm
⁽²⁾ *Williams and Kapila, Complications of Circumcision. British Journal of Surgery, vol. 80, pp. 1231-1236, October 1993.*
⁽³⁾ *Physical complications only. Does not include adverse sexual or psychological effects manifesting later in life.*

Source: Statistics on Human Genital Mutilation www.noharmm.org/HGMstats.htm

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Estimated Worldwide Incidence of Male Circumcision Complications *

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	Muslims	Jews	Americans	African Tribes	World Total *
Total group population	1 billion	13.4 million	288.8 million	69.8 million	
Est. Circumcised Males	517 million <small>(assumes 100% circumcised)</small>	6.7 million <small>(assumes 100% circumcised)</small>	115.5 million <small>(assumes 80% of 144.4 million males circumcised)</small>	8.7 million <small>(assumes 25% of 34.9 million males circumcised.)</small>	647.9 million
Affected Males:					
10% Complication Rate	51.7 million	672,550	11.6 million	873,400	64.9 million
2% Complication Rate	10.3 million	134,510	2.3 million	174,680	13 million
1% Complication Rate	5.1 million	67,255	1.1 million	87,340	6.5 million

* Not including other circumcising cultures (e.g. Filipinos, South Pacific Islanders, Australian Aboriginals, South Koreans)

Sources for 1994 population figures viewable at: Estimated Worldwide Incidence of Male Circumcision Complications. www.noharm.org/incidenceworld.htm

The 2%-10% complication rate applies to "medicalized" circumcisions noted by Williams & Kapila(1). Significant number of male circumcisions in the world are *not* done in a medical setting, but in unsanitary conditions with rudimentary and/or unsterilized cutting tools (used razor blades, glass/stone shards, swords, machetes, etc.). Strong likelihood that the complication rate far exceeds 10%.

(1) Williams and Kapila. Complications of Circumcision. *British Journal of Surgery*, vol. 80, pp. 1231-1236, October 1993.

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Scope of problem will grow because male circumcision is officially promoted by WHO/UNAIDS

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- Before 2014 Centers for Disease Control’s draft policy on circumcision;
- Before 2012 American Academy of Pediatrics statement;
- Before Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision programs began in Africa...

2007: Technical consultation (Montreux, Switzerland) – organised by World Health Organization and UNAIDS – recommended male circumcision as a method for preventing HIV transmission.

“The consultation resulted from a process steered by an informal network that cannot be described as a ‘hybrid forum’, which is usually characterised by openness to debate and a plurality of issues.

On the contrary, little room was allowed for contradictory discussions, as if the decision had already been made before the consultation.”

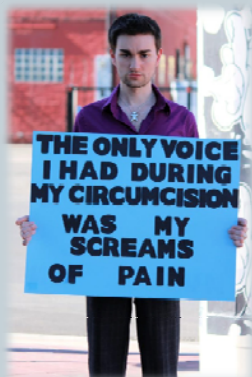
Hybrid forum or network? The social and political construction of an international ‘technical consultation’: Male circumcision and HIV prevention. Alain Giami, Christophe Perrey, André Luiz de Oliveira Mendonça & Kenneth Rochel de Camargo. *Global Public Health: An International Journal for Research, Policy and Practice* 03 Feb 2015

Inevitably VMMC will lead either to official programs promoting infant circumcision or to inter-generational circumcision customs.

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Circumcisionism: An attitude that must be challenged

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Sexism/-ist

Racism/-ist

Heterosexism/-ist

Circumcisionism

*“A hegemonic view in society that circumcision is a normative and acceptable practice” **

Considers the UN-circumcised (intact) male as inferior:
unclean – unhealthy – unattractive – unholy – uncivilized

Individuals and cultures holding this view are circumcisionist.

* Wisdom, T. (2012). Questioning circumcisionism: Feminism, gender equity, and human rights. *Righting Wrongs*, 2(1), p. 2

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What keeps men silent about circumcision?

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- ignorance, including doctors, about foreskin functions and benefits;
- lack of familiarity with how to identify circumcision damage;
- lack of appropriate opportunities to document adverse consequences;
- psychological adaptation to early life amputation, compensatory use of remaining faculties;
Racy, JC. Psychological aspects of amputation (Ch.26) in Moore WS & Malone S, Lower Extremity Amputation. WB Saunders (1989)
- cultural/social/religious/familial pressures: mutilation is done 'for' them, not 'to' them;
- gender-based expectations on men to be strong and to not complain;
- political correctness to not 'detract' from discussions of female genital cutting;
- denial among victims and circumcisers (many of whom are victims themselves) that any damage has occurred...



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Denial among victims of childhood genital cutting
Interviews with genitally cut women (Egypt) and genitally cut men (USA)
Source: www.circumcisionharm.org/denialvideos.htm

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Denial of Harm or Silence = Satisfaction?

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Long-term adverse outcomes never studied by medical community

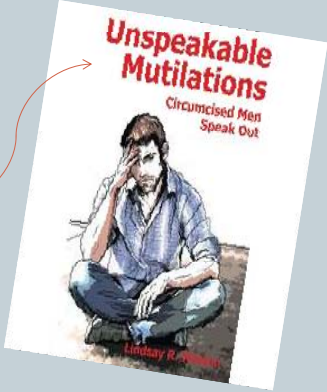
BOSSIO:

"Considerable gaps within the current medical literature on circumcision." (1)

"Sexual functioning is intricately tied to quality of life." (2)

*"Largest proportion of **circumcised men** reported feeling **extremely dissatisfied** with being circumcised."* (2)

*"...men **dissatisfied with their circumcision status** reported **lower body image** on all variables assessed (genital image, body image during sexual activity, and global body image) and **worse sexual functioning** on all subscales (Erectile Functioning, Orgasm Functioning, Intercourse Satisfaction, Overall Sexual Satisfaction)."* (2)



(1) Bossio, J and Brousseau, E. (2014) Studying neonatal circumcision and its effect on the sexual health of adult men and their sexual partners. Dept. of Psychiatry, Queen's University, Toronto, Canada. <http://www.queensu.ca/psychology/news/Feature/JenniferBossioJune2014.html>

(2) Bossio, J (2015) Examining sexual correlates of neonatal circumcision in adult men [Ch.5]. <http://qspspace.library.queensu.ca/handle/1974/13627>

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The first known harm documentation effort (1993)

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BJU International 1999; 83, August, 1, 83-92

A preliminary poll of men circumcised in infancy or childhood

T. HAMMOND

National Organization to Halt the Abuse & Restore Malehood of Men (NOHARMM), San Francisco, California, USA

Introduction

An estimated 650 million males [1] and 100 million females [2] being raised were genitaly abused as children. Annually 13 million boys and 2 million girls in developing and developed nations undergo cosmetic genital cutting, euphemistically termed ‘circumcision’. These values are the estimated worldwide incidence of male circumcision (http://www.noharrrm.org/bochence-worldwide), estimated from a rate of 8.5 male circumcisions for each female circumcision, based on total and normal estimates of circumcision. The severity of mutilation differs among individuals, operations and cultures. Most female and male genital mutilations occur under similar sanitary conditions [3,4], although some procedures are conducted under medical conditions. Although 90% of the world’s males remain genitaly intact [5], male preputial excision has become diffused and universal through legitimization by the medical community.

The last medically advanced nation to permit its circumcising most of its boys for no therapeutic or religious reason is the USA. The current national average circumcision rate in the USA is 80%, down from 85% in the 1970s [6]. Over 1.25 million infants are circumcised annually, i.e., one child every 28 seconds. 90% of American men were circumcised in childhood, affecting an estimated 100 million adults to varying degrees. The medical community has never measured the long-term outcomes; this article explores the personal and interpersonal impact of childhood circumcisions on men.

Assessing men’s knowledge of genital anatomy and function

Accurate measurement of the effects of childhood circumcision on adult health and wellbeing requires a thorough understanding of the functions of the intact (non-circumcised) penis and knowledge of the complications of circumcision. The prepuce contributes to the pleasure and dynamics of movement, sensation and lubrication during masturbation, foreplay and intercourse [7]. However, in the medical community, articles and abstracts on the advantages and disadvantages of circumcision consistently fail to discuss the prepuce as these benefits of preservation [8].

Generally, men circumcised in childhood remain uninformal of its effects. Liberman et al. [9] found that one-third of circumcised men were unaware they were circumcised. Schlander et al. [10] revealed that 14% of circumcised adolescents reported their status incorrectly; circumcised boys were more accurate of their status than intact boys. Schlander et al. determined that ‘Factors affecting satisfaction with circumcision status are currently not known and need to be examined’, emphasizing ‘Since the desire to be similar to peers typically fades during progression into later adolescence and adulthood, the effect of circumcising age on satisfaction also needs to be examined [10].

Examining these ‘factors’ and ‘effects’ is hindered by circumcised men’s ignorance of natural penile physiology. Other limits to reliable assessment may include subjective convictions that circumcision is beneficial or benign, unfamiliarity with identifying circumcision damage, assumptions that atypical irregularities are ‘normal’ or ‘a birth defect’, and defective denial of harm. Also, the organization of circumcisions is described in circumcised sources [11]. If, after excision of the male prepuce its egressive functions are assumed by other genital areas, this too may impede a thorough comprehension of the loss. Therefore, a man’s silence, withdrawal or absence of his circumcised condition does not indicate that circumcision is benign or that he will never fully comprehend the loss.

Documenting the consequences of circumcision

Assumptions that men circumcised in childhood are satisfied with or suffer no adverse effects from circumcision have no scientific foundation. The American Academy of Pediatrics reported that the exact incidence of postoperative complications is unknown [12]. Williams and Knight assert that a realistic value is 2–10% [13]. Lacking accurate records of these complications, it is not surprising that the medical community has not documented degrees of severity or long-term consequences. Intercircumcised outcomes in childhood may become more apparent and troublesome in adulthood. The Virginia Urologic Society’s former president acknowledged, ‘When a poor surgical result is not recognized until years after the event, adverse long-term consequences of infant circumcisions on the sexual health

- Mail-in survey by NOHARMM (1993 to 1996)
- 546 participants, mainly from USA
- The first attempt to systematically survey men about how childhood prepucectomy affects physical, sexual and emotional health and wellbeing
- Sheds light on a *subset* of genitally cut men; those who are aware of some degree of harm from their circumcision
- Published 1999 in *BJU International*
- [www.noharrrm.org/images/Preliminary %20Poll %201999.pdf](http://www.noharrrm.org/images/Preliminary%20Poll%201999.pdf)

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Global Survey of Circumcision Harm (2012)

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- Online survey: Forty four questions with opportunity to submit photographic documentation and video testimony.
- Conducted June 2011 – September 2012: due to lack of research by medical community into long-term adverse physical, sexual, emotional and psychological consequences of childhood genital cutting on the health of adult men.
- 1,008 participants from USA, Canada, U.K., Australia, Germany, Israel
- Results submitted to Canadian Paediatric Society (Feb 2013) and to U.S. Centers for Disease Control/CDC (Dec 2014)
- Results now being prepared for submission for publication.
- www.CircumcisionHarm.org/report_GSCH%202012%2009%2021.pdf

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Global Survey of Circumcision Harm Demographics: 1 of 3

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Respondents came to the survey via: genital integrity organizations (43%), stumbled across it while internet ‘surfing’ (28%), a friend (13%), men’s group/media (8%), family (4%), medical professional (1%), other (3%)

Age range of respondents:		18 to 80+	Age distribution of respondents:		83%	20-59	30%	20-29
Birthplace (data also available on current country of residence)								
USA	Canada	Not Stated	Australia	U. K.	Germany	Israel	New Zealand	S. Africa
71%	8%	6%	5%	5%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Race								
Caucasian/White		Mixed	Hispanic/Latino		Asian	African American/Black		Other
90%		3%	2%		2%	1%		1%
Age at circumcision								
Birth		1 week to 11 months		1 to 5 years		6 to 12 years		13 to 18 years
78%		11%		5%		3%		3%

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Global Survey of Circumcision Harm Demographics: 2 of 3

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Circumcision setting							
Hospital/Doctor's Office		Religious Ritual		Unknown		Tribal Initiation	
94%		3%		3%		0%	
Parents' religious affiliation							
Christian	None	Agnostic	Jewish	Atheist	Other	Unknown	Muslim
71%	8%	6%	5%	5%	2%	1%	1%
Current religious identification of respondents							
Christian	None	Agnostic	Jewish	Atheist	Other	Buddhist	Muslim
32%	25%	13%	1%	18%	8%	1%	0%
Sexual Orientation							
Heterosexual/Straight		Homosexual/Gay		Bisexual	Not Stated	Queer/Fluid	Questioning
58%		24%		12%	4%	1%	1%

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Global Survey of Circumcision Harm Demographics: 3 of 3

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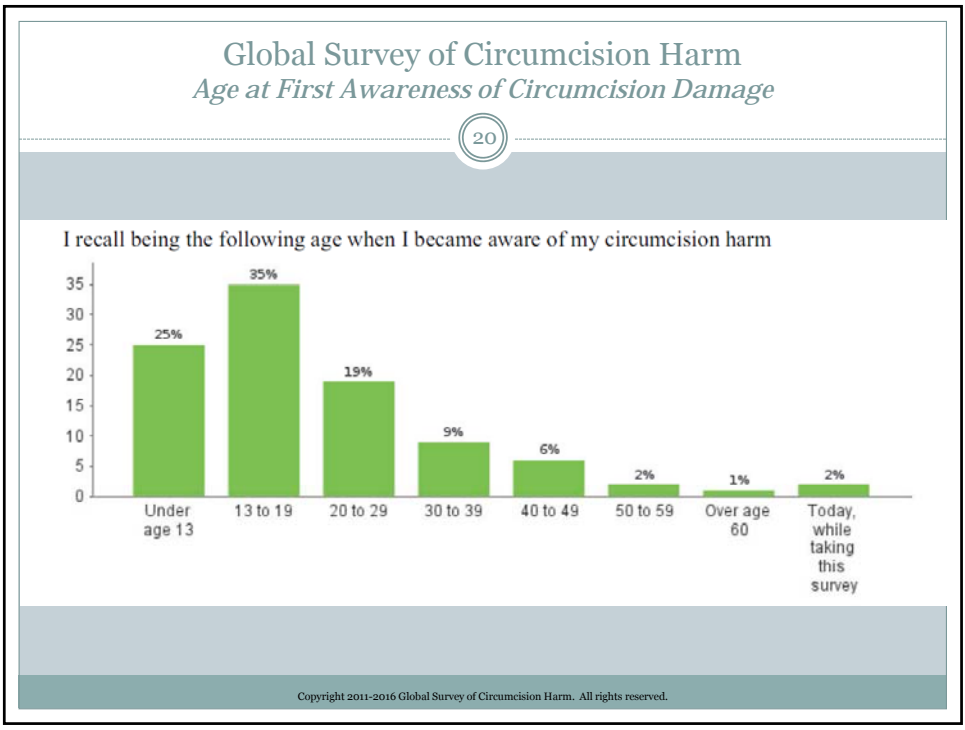
Marital Status						
Single	Married	Living with Partner	Divorced	Dom.Part./Civil Union	Separated	Wiwed
43%	35%	12%	3%	5%	1%	1%

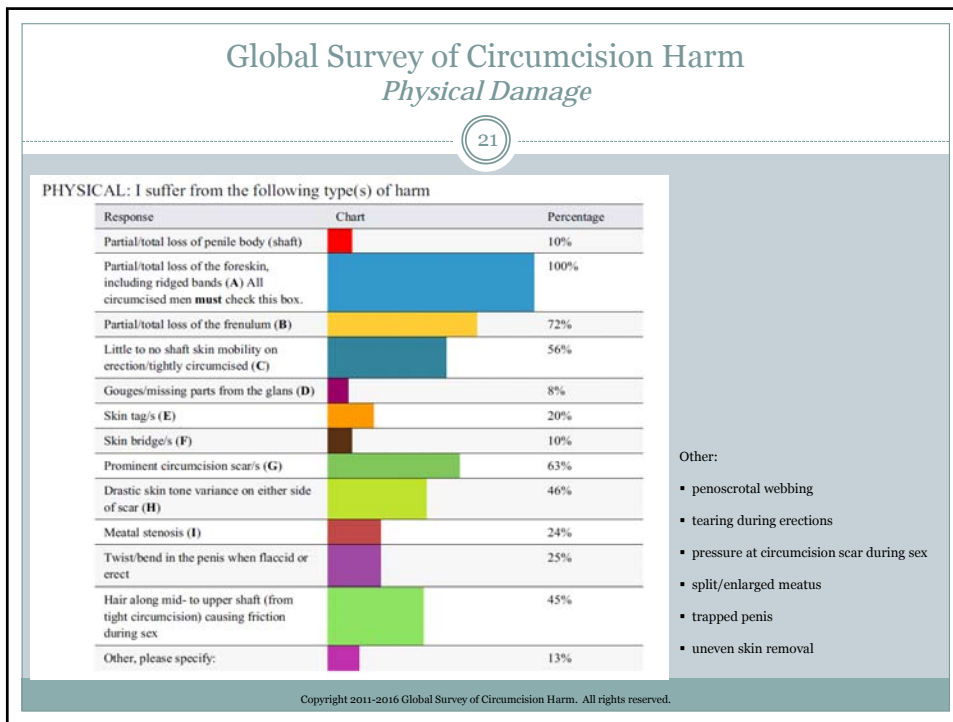
Educational Level				
College/Degree	Post-Grad	Some College/No Degree	High School/Secondary	No High School/Secondary
38%	23%	23%	14%	2%

Knowledge about foreskin functions/benefits			Knowledge of how to identify circumcision damage		
Above Average	Average	Below Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average
76%	21%	3%	63%	31%	6%

Percentage of respondents who reported knowing other men with circumcision damage
76%

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Global Survey of Circumcision Harm
Physical Damage: Photographic Evidence (2 of 2)

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“My parents wanted me to be cut because they are very religious people and thought uncut atheists were bad people.

The cutting was not very good and this is what I have now.

I suffer because of my cock and I’m virgin.”



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Global Survey of Circumcision Harm
Sexual Damage

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SEXUAL: When aroused, I suffer from the following symptoms

Response	Chart	Percentage
Insensitive glans (penile head)		67%
Dry, keratinized glans (requires lubricants before sex)		75%
Excess stimulation needed to achieve orgasm		59%
Delayed ejaculation (I can't orgasm when I want to)		41%
Premature ejaculation (I orgasm sooner than I want to)		18%
Erectile dysfunction (trouble getting/staying hard) UNTREATED		23%
Erectile dysfunction TREATED WITH VIAGRA, CIALIS, etc.		8%
Penile bleeding along shaft or at scar during sex		6%
Painful erections (pain along the shaft skin)		15%
Circumcision scar is painful		8%
Circumcision scar is numb (no feeling)		27%
Circumcision scar is extra sensitive		8%
Other, please specify:		11%

“The fundamental biological sex act becomes, for the circumcised male, simply satisfaction of an urge and not the refined sensory experience that it was meant to be.”

Falliers, C.J.
 Circumcision.
Journal of the American Medical Assn.
 vol. 214, 1970, pp. 2194-2195

Other:

- difficult masturbation due to loss of skin mobility
- uneven sensitivity
- tearing at frenular remnant
- scar tightness upon erection

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Confessions of a Man Damaged by Genital Cutting

Captured from YouTube prior to deletion. Preserved at: www.circumcisionharm.org/testimonyvideo1.htm

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Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

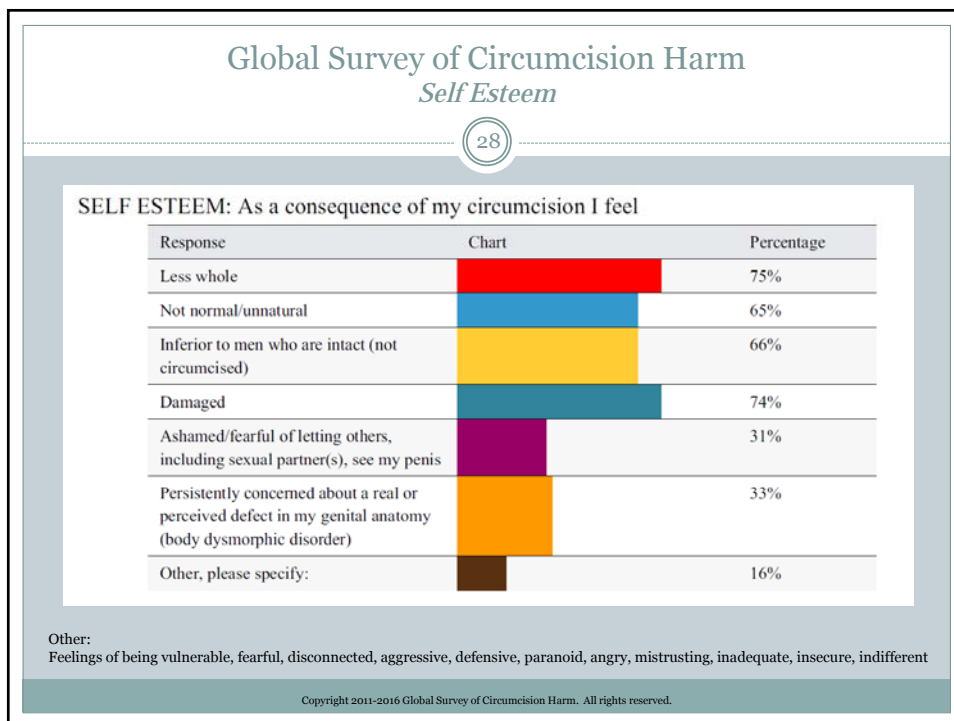
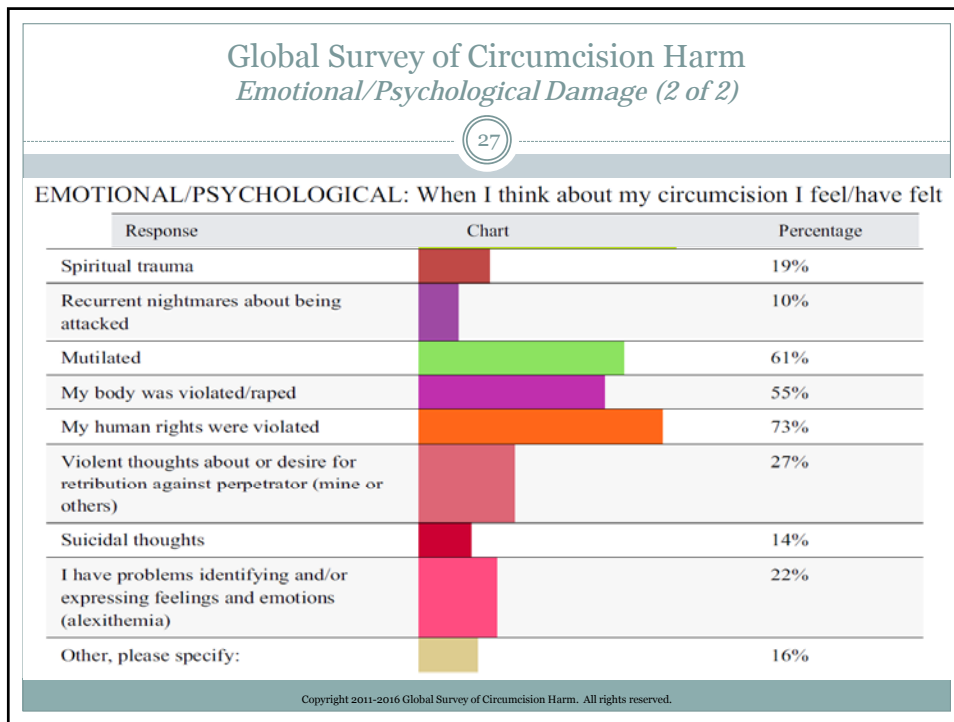
Emotional/Psychological Damage (1 of 2)

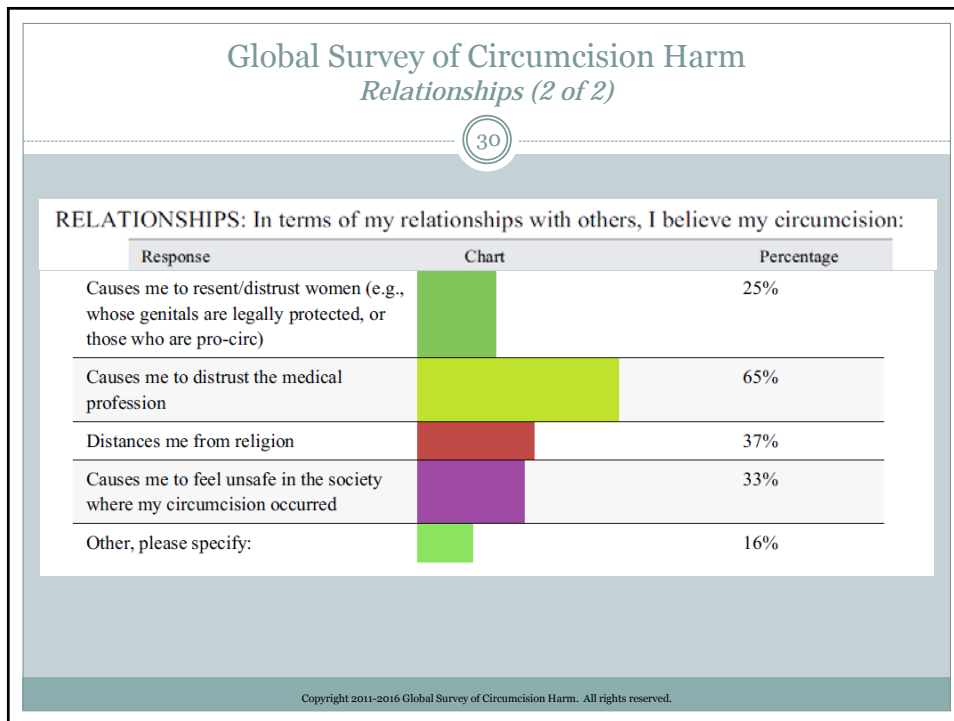
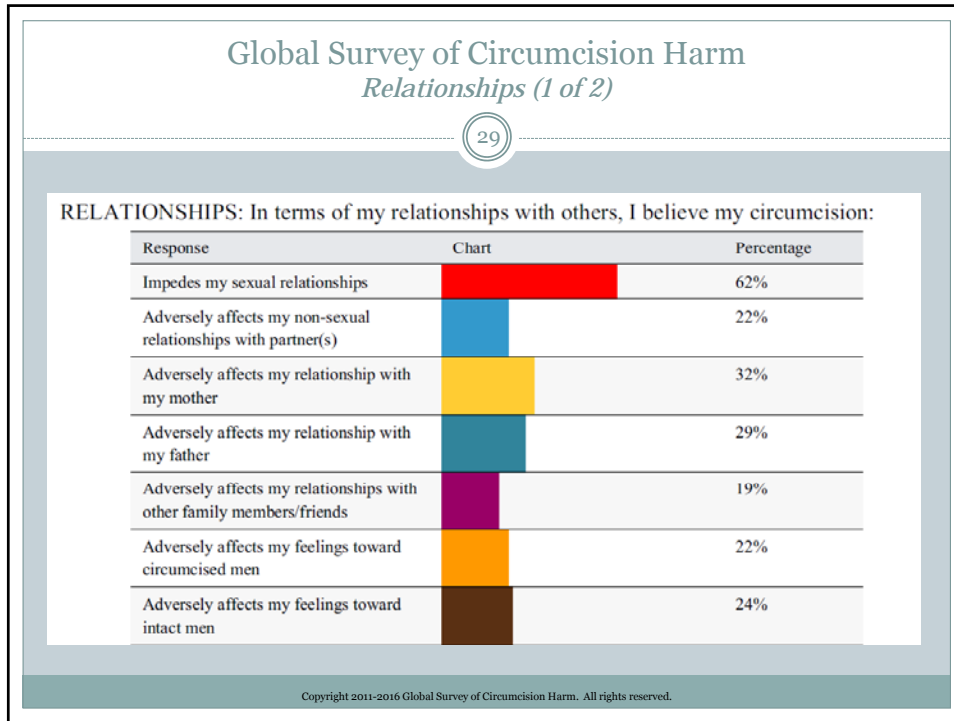
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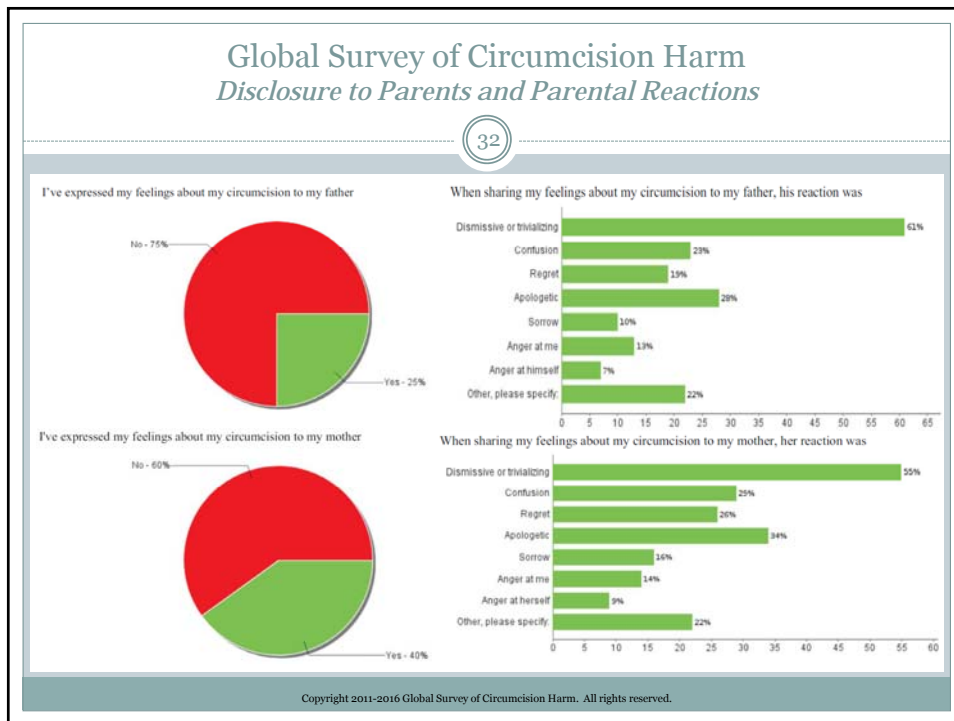
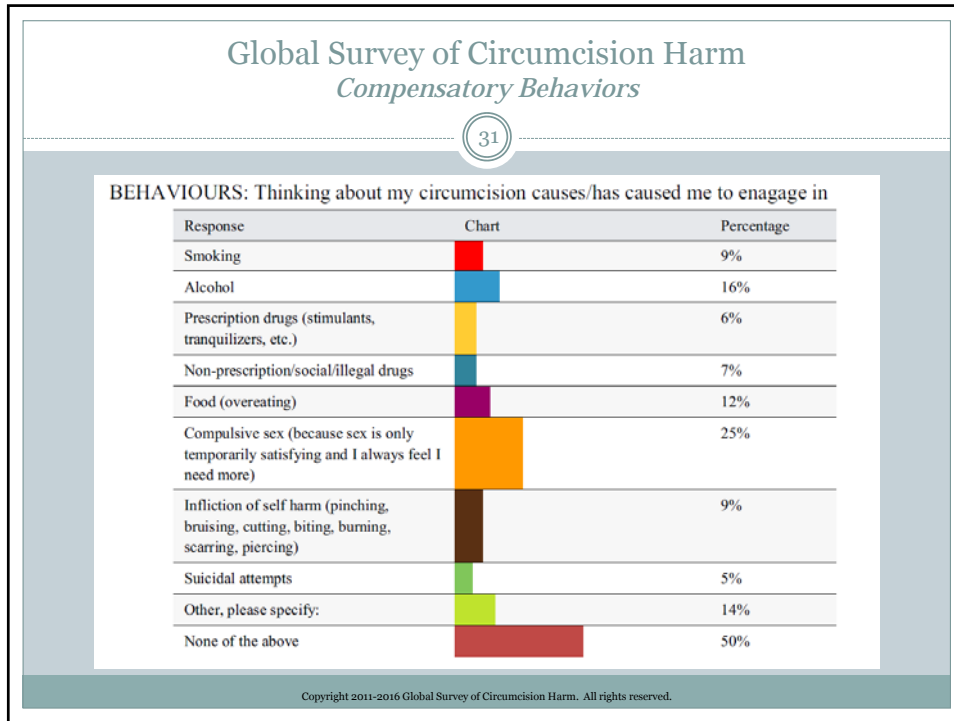
EMOTIONAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL: When I think about my circumcision I feel/have felt

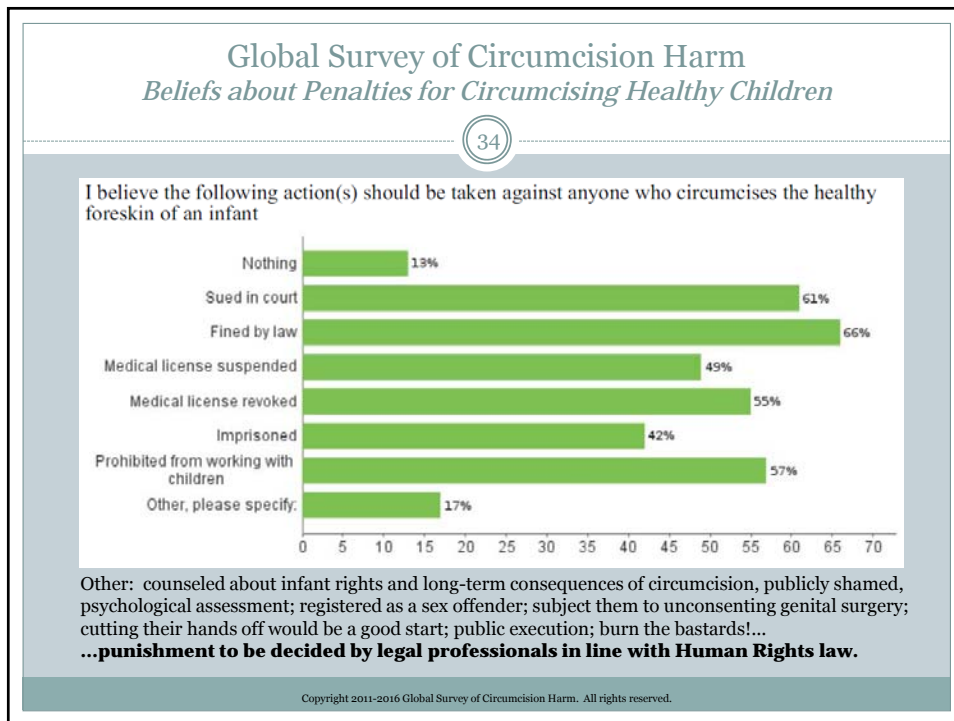
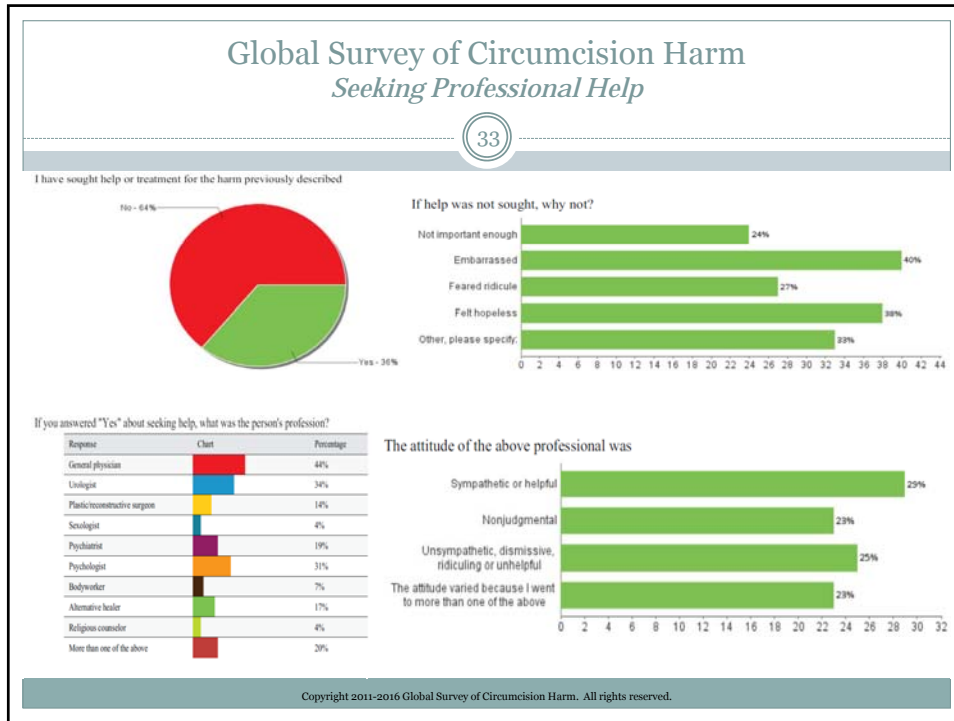
Response	Chart	Percentage
Anger		71%
Frustration		72%
Shame		37%
Betrayed for lack of protection from harm by my mother		55%
Betrayed for lack of protection from harm by my father		50%
Betrayed for lack of protection from harm by doctor(s)		58%
Betrayed for lack of protection from harm by clergy/religious		10%
Betrayed for lack of protection from harm by tribal elder(s)		1%
Dissatisfaction with my condition		77%

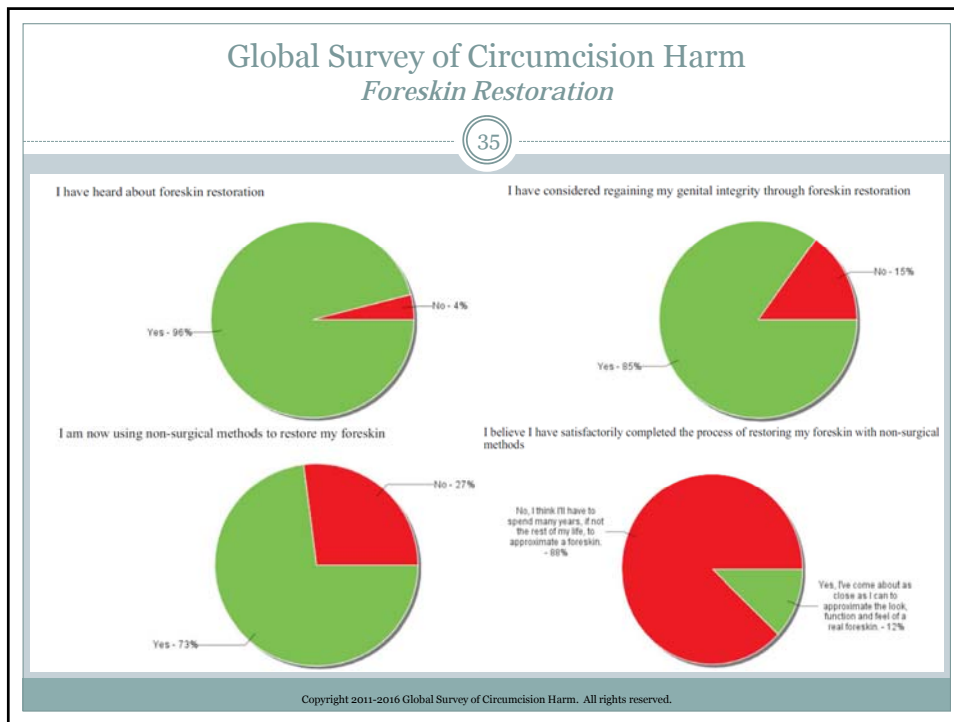
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“Houston: We have a problem”

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Proposals:

“ Post Traumatic Circumcision Disorder ”
A syndrome of adverse physical, sexual, psychological, emotional and/or self-esteem consequences affecting a percentage of males subjected to non-therapeutic childhood circumcision negatively impacting male health and wellbeing.

Need more research, support groups and inclusion of PTCD in updates to:

- ☞ Int’l Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health/ICFDH (WHO)
- ☞ Int’l Classifications of Diseases/ICD-10 (USA)

Hold governments, U.N., WHO, WMA, Amnesty Int’l, Human Rights Watch, etc accountable for not protecting boys’ human rights to bodily integrity.

Healing the Wounds of Circumcision

A 6-week series of facilitated personal sharing, guest speakers, and video.

Lots of guys love their circumcised dicks. Other guys feel they want to talk about the effects of being circumcised. This 6-week closed group is an opportunity for guys to explore ways to heal both emotionally and physically from their circumcision experience.

WHEN: SATURDAYS, 10AM-12PM
OCTOBER 25TH-NOVEMBER 29TH

WHERE: HIM OFFICE, 1033 DAVIE STREET

Register via email at register@checkinout.ca or call 604.488.1001.

Disclaimer: This is not a group to debate the pros and cons of circumcision, but to help men who know they've been harmed by the practice to heal from their loss.

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Growing support for children's rights to bodily integrity, genital autonomy and religious freedom

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- **World Congress of Sexology 1997**
All persons have “The right to autonomy, integrity and safety of the body. This right encompasses control and enjoyment of our own bodies, free from torture, mutilation and violence of any sort.”
(Valencia Declaration on Sexual Rights)
- **Committee on Rights of the Child 2013**
Concern about short and long-term impact of newborn circumcision, recommends (Israel conduct) a study into its complications. (Concluding observations Israel's 2nd-4th periodic report)
- **Cologne Regional Court 2012**
07 May 2012 – landmark decision
Circumcision of male minors without immediate medical indication inflicts bodily harm, constituting a violation of the rights of boys to physical integrity.
(German Court Rules Circumcision is Assault)

Bundestag protects circumcision – 12 Dec 2012

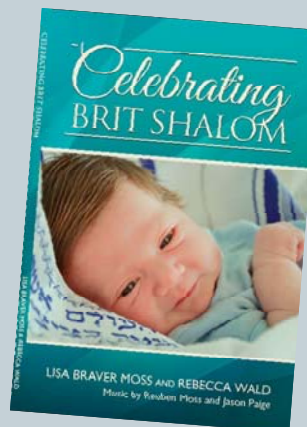


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...growing support even in religious communities

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- **Parent Groups in Israel**
Urge abandonment of infant circumcision and adoption of *Brit Shalom* ceremony for both males and females
 - Gonnen al Hayeled (Protect the Child)
www.gonnen.org
 - Kahal (Parents of Intact Children)
www.kahal.org
 - Ben Shalem
www.britmila.org.il
 - Beyond the Bris
www.beyondthebris.com
- **Islamic Questioning**
Circumcision: Does the Qur'an approve it?
www.quranicpath.com/misconceptions/circumcision.html



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...and more support for children’s rights to
bodily integrity, genital autonomy and religious freedom

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- **International NGO Council on Violence Against Children 2012**

Female genital mutilation, sex assignment of intersex children and male circumcision are “harmful practices based on tradition, culture, religion or superstition. Constitute a gross violation of their rights, including the right to physical integrity, to freedom of thought and religion and to protection from physical and mental violence.”
(Violating Children’s Rights: Harmful practices based on tradition, culture, religion or superstition)

- **Special Rapporteur to the U.N. General Assembly 2015**

“Some argue that to be circumcised is part of the child’s right to identity (CRC article 8) - but having a circumcised penis is a mark of the parent’s religion, not the child’s freely chosen religion. Any assumption that a child will follow his parents’ religion conflicts with his independent freedoms.”
(Call for adequate recognition of children’s right to freedom of religion or belief throughout UN)

- **Council of Europe 2013**

Called for all 47 member states to “initiate a public debate, including intercultural and interreligious dialogue, aimed at reaching a large consensus on the rights of children to protection against violations of their physical integrity according to human rights standards (including non-medically justified circumcision of young boys).”
(Children’s Right to Physical Integrity www.assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=20174&lang=en)

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Fringe or Vanguard?

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Are men who complain about circumcision a ‘fringe’ group? **NO!**

They are a ‘vanguard’ of men who are tired of
seeing parents misled by doctors and religious leaders.

They are tired of being lied to and
having their harm ignored or denied by society.

They have a right and a responsibility to speak up about a practice
that has harmed them and continues to harm others.

MEN WILL NO LONGER BE SILENT...

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A Choice Awaits

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**CIRCUMCISED MEN:
YOU’RE EITHER FIGHTING
AGAINST WHAT WAS DONE TO
YOU TO DEFEND CHILDREN OR
FIGHTING AGAINST CHILDREN
TO DEFEND WHAT WAS DONE
TO YOU.** [Facebook.com/endgenitalcutting](https://www.facebook.com/endgenitalcutting)

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“I’m a victim of Brit Milah”

Available at: www.circumcisionharm.org/testimonyvideos2.htm and www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVO6YzROKZE

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Message from a Young Egyptian Circumcised Man
11 May 2013

Captured from YouTube prior to deletion. Preserved at: www.circumcisionharm.org/testimony.htm

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Zakareya - circumcised age 10

- terror
- post traumatic stress
- recurring genital pain
- sexual dysfunction
- visceral flashbacks
- helplessness/hopelessness
- anger & hostility
- desire for revenge
- spiritual betrayal
- religious alienation
- sexual compulsivity
- body dysmorphic disorder
- loss of self-esteem
- feelings of shame
- infliction of self-harm
- suicidal/homicidal ideation
- betrayal of parental trust
- familial alienation
- sleep disorders/nightmares
- antipathy toward doctors
- anti-semitism
- misogyny

This testimony reveals many of the outcomes found among harm survey participants circumcised as infants. He expresses what circumcised infants may feel but do not yet have words to convey, likely resulting in heretofore unresearched lifelong somatic memories that may sub-consciously influence attitudes, emotions and behaviors.

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Thank you for your attention

World Day of Genital Autonomy Every 07 May www.genital-autonomy.de

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Survey Programmer

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