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

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

If you didn’t say NONE, we have a problem.
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/
Turkey: Sünnet/Kataan

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

Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.
### Scope of the Problem: Childhood Genital Mutilation

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

---

(1) Estimated U.S. Incidence of Neonatal Circumcision Complications (physical only) Affecting Males Born between 1940 and 1990. [www.noharmm.org/incidenceUS.htm](http://www.noharmm.org/incidenceUS.htm)


(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](http://www.noharmm.org//HGMstats.htm)

Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.
Estimated Worldwide Incidence of Male Circumcision Complications *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Muslims</th>
<th>Jews</th>
<th>Americans</th>
<th>African Tribes</th>
<th>World Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Group Population</td>
<td>1 billion</td>
<td>13.4 million</td>
<td>288.8 million</td>
<td>69.8 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Est. Circumcised Males</td>
<td>517 million (assumes 100% circumcised)</td>
<td>5.7 million (assumes 100% circumcised)</td>
<td>115.5 million (assumes 80% of 144.4 million males circumcised)</td>
<td>8.7 million (assumes 75% of 34.9 million males circumcised)</td>
<td>647.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affected Males: 10% Complication Rate</td>
<td>51.7 million</td>
<td>672,550</td>
<td>11.6 million</td>
<td>873,400</td>
<td>64.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2% Complication Rate</td>
<td>10.3 million</td>
<td>134,510</td>
<td>2.3 million</td>
<td>174,680</td>
<td>13 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% Complication Rate</td>
<td>5.1 million</td>
<td>67,255</td>
<td>1.1 million</td>
<td>87,340</td>
<td>6.5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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


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%.


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

- 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...


“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’:


Inevitably VMMC will lead either to official programs promoting infant circumcision or to inter-generational circumcision customs.
Circumcisionism: An attitude that must be challenged

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.


What keeps men silent about circumcision?

➤ 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;
➤ 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...

Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.
Denial among victims of childhood genital cutting

Interviews with genitally cut women (Egypt) and genitally cut men (USA)

Source: www.circumcisionharm.org/denialvideos.htm

Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.

Denial of Harm or Silence = Satisfaction?

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)


Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.
The first known harm documentation effort (1993)

- 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.noharmm.org/images/Preliminary%20Poll%201999.pdf

Global Survey of Circumcision Harm (2012)

- 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.
### Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

#### Demographics: 1 of 3

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%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age range of respondents:</th>
<th>18 to 80+</th>
<th>Age distribution of respondents:</th>
<th>83% 20-59</th>
<th>30% 20-29</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birthplace (data also available on current country of residence)</th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>Not Stated</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>U. K.</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Israel</th>
<th>New Zealand</th>
<th>S. Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71% 8% 6% 5% 5% 2% 1% 1% 1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Caucasian/White</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>African American/Black</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% 3% 2% 2% 1% 1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at circumcision</th>
<th>Birth</th>
<th>1 week to 11 months</th>
<th>1 to 5 years</th>
<th>6 to 12 years</th>
<th>13 to 18 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78% 11% 5% 3% 3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Demographics: 2 of 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circumcision setting</th>
<th>Hospital/Doctor’s Office</th>
<th>Religious Ritual</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Tribal Initiation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94% 3% 3% 0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parents’ religious affiliation</th>
<th>Christian</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Agnostic</th>
<th>Jewish</th>
<th>Atheist</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Muslim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71% 8% 6% 5% 5% 2% 1% 1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current religious identification of respondents</th>
<th>Christian</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Agnostic</th>
<th>Jewish</th>
<th>Atheist</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Buddhist</th>
<th>Muslim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32% 23% 13% 1% 18% 8% 1% 0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual Orientation</th>
<th>Heterosexual/Straight</th>
<th>Homosexual/Gay</th>
<th>Bisexual</th>
<th>Not Stated</th>
<th>Queer/Fluid</th>
<th>Questioning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58% 24% 12% 4% 1% 1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

Demographics: 3 of 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Living with Partner</th>
<th>Divorced</th>
<th>Dom.Part./Civil Union</th>
<th>Separated</th>
<th>Widowed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Level</th>
<th>College/Degree</th>
<th>Post-Grad</th>
<th>Some College/No Degree</th>
<th>High School/Secondary</th>
<th>No High School/Secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge about foreskin functions/benefits</th>
<th>Knowledge of how to identify circumcision damage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Above Average</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of respondents who reported knowing other men with circumcision damage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.

Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

Age at First Awareness of Circumcision Damage

I recall being the following age when I became aware of my circumcision harm

Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.
Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

Physical Damage

PHYSICAL: I suffer from the following type(s) of harm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Chart</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partial/total loss of prepuce (skirt)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial/total loss of the foreskin, including ridged frenum (A) All circumcised men must check this box.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial/total loss of the frenum(s)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little to no shaft skin mobility on erection/tightly circumcised (C)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess/scarring parts from the glans (D)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin tags (E)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin bridges (F)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prominent circumcision scar(s) (G)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drastic clitoral variance on either side of scar (H)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental atrophy (I)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twisted head in the penis when flaccid or erect</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair along mid-to-upper shaft (Non-tight circumcisions causing friction during sex)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, please specify</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other:
- penoscrotal webbing
- tearing during erections
- pressure at circumcision scar during sex
- split/enlarged meatus
- trapped penis
- uneven skin removal

Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

Physical Damage: Photographic Evidence (1 of 2)
"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."

---

"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."


Other:
- difficult masturbation due to loss of skin mobility
- uneven sensitivity
- tearing at frenular remnant
- scar tightness upon erection
Confessions of a Man Damaged by Genital Cutting
Captured from YouTube prior to deletion. Preserved at: www.circumcisionharm.org/testimonyvideos.htm

Global Survey of Circumcision Harm
Emotional/Psychological Damage (1 of 2)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Chart</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anger</td>
<td></td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frustration</td>
<td></td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shame</td>
<td></td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betrayed for lack of protection from harm by mother</td>
<td></td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betrayed for lack of protection from harm by father</td>
<td></td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betrayed for lack of protection from harm by doctor(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betrayed for lack of protection from harm by clergy/religious</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betrayed for lack of protection from harm by tribal elder(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissatisfaction with my condition</td>
<td></td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

Emotional/Psychological Damage (2 of 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Chart</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual trauma</td>
<td></td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recurrent nightmares about being attacked</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutilated</td>
<td></td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My body was violated/raped</td>
<td></td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My human rights were violated</td>
<td></td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent thoughts about or desire for retribution against perpetrator (mine or others)</td>
<td></td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicidal thoughts</td>
<td></td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have problems identifying and/or expressing feelings and emotions (alexithemia)</td>
<td></td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, please specify:</td>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

Self Esteem

Self Esteem: As a consequence of my circumcision I feel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Chart</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less whole</td>
<td></td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not normal/natural</td>
<td></td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inferior to men who are intact (not circumcised)</td>
<td></td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaged</td>
<td></td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashamed/fearful of letting others, including sexual partner(s), see my penis</td>
<td></td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistently concerned about a real or perceived defect in my genital anatomy (body dysmorphic disorder)</td>
<td></td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, please specify:</td>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other: Feelings of being vulnerable, fearful, disconnected, aggressive, defensive, paranoid, angry, mistrusting, inadequate, insecure, indifferent

Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.
Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

Relationships (1 of 2)

RELATIONSHIPS: In terms of my relationships with others, I believe my circumcision:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Chart</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impedes my sexual relationships</td>
<td></td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adversely affects my non-sexual relationships with partner(s)</td>
<td></td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adversely affects my relationship with my mother</td>
<td></td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adversely affects my relationship with my father</td>
<td></td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adversely affects my relationships with other family members/friends</td>
<td></td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adversely affects my feelings toward circumcised men</td>
<td></td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adversely affects my feelings toward intact men</td>
<td></td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

Relationships (2 of 2)

RELATIONSHIPS: In terms of my relationships with others, I believe my circumcision:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Chart</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Causes me to resent/distrust women (e.g., whose genitals are legally protected, or those who are pre-circ)</td>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causes me to distrust the medical profession</td>
<td></td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distances me from religion</td>
<td></td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Causes me to feel unsafe in the society where my circumcision occurred</td>
<td></td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, please specify:</td>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Survey of Circumcision Harm

Seeking Professional Help

If help was not sought, why not?

- Not important enough: 24%
- Embarrassed: 34%
- Feared ridicule: 27%
- Feared hospital: 9%
- Other, please specify:

If you would say “yes” about seeking help, whose person do you distrust?

- General physician: 64%
- Surgeon: 19%
- Psychologist: 9%
- Hygienist: 11%
- Pediatrician: 7%
- Member of the family: 17%
- Religion member: 9%
- None of the above: 23%

The attitude of the above professional is:

- Sympathetic or helpful: 23%
- Nonjudgmental: 29%
- Uncomfortable, uncomfortable: 29%
- The attitude varied so much I won’t say more than one of the above: 19%

Beliefs about Penalties for Circumcising Healthy Children

I believe the following action(s) should be taken against anyone who circumcises the healthy foreskin of an infant

- Nothing: 13%
- Sued in court: 62%
- Fined by law: 60%
- Medical license suspended: 45%
- Medical license revoked: 55%
- Imprisoned: 42%
- Prohibited from working with children: 42%
- Other, please specify: 17%

Other: counseled about infant rights and long-term consequences of circumcision, publicly shamed, psychological assessment; registered as a sex offender; subject them to unconsenting genital surgery; cutting their hands off would be a good start; public execution; burn the bastards!... ...punishment to be decided by legal professionals in line with Human Rights law.
Global Survey of Circumcision Harm
Foreskin Restoration

"Houston: We have a problem"

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)

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

- **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

...growing support even in religious communities

- **Parent Groups in Israel**
  Urge abandonment of infant circumcision and adoption of Brit Shalom ceremony for both males and females
  - Gonnen al Hayed (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

Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.
...and more support for children’s rights to bodily integrity, genital autonomy and religious freedom

- **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)*

Fringe or Vanguard?

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...**
A Choice Awaits

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.

Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.

“I’m a victim of Brit Milah”

Available at: www.circumcisionharm.org/testimonyvideos.htm and www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVkW4DKR2E

Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.
Message from a Young Egyptian Circumcised Man
11 May 2013
Captured from YouTube prior to deletion. Preserved at: www.circumcisionharm.org/testimony.htm

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.

Thank you for your attention
World Day of Genital Autonomy Every 07 May www.genital-autonomy.de

Global Survey of Circumcision Harm
Ask the right questions. Reveal the harm.
Tim Hammond
Survey Programmer

Online Questionnaire
Photo Documentation
Video Testimonies
Resources for Healing & Action
Latest Research & News

circharmsurvey@gmail.com
www.CircumcisionHarm.org

Copyright 2011-2016 Global Survey of Circumcision Harm. All rights reserved.