

There is no room for hatred and misanthropy!

We strongly object to any attempts to misconstrue our efforts on behalf of the rights of all children to genital self-determination, or to misuse these efforts as a basis to profess or carry out hatred toward religious and cultural communities.

We urge all participants to clearly distance themselves from generalizations and animosity and to be absolutely clear that this is solely about the well-being, bodily integrity, and right to self-determination of the child.

Appealing for the WORLDWIDE DAY OF GENITAL AUTONOMY are:

- Attorneys for the rights of the child (USA)
- Australasian Institute for Genital Autonomy – AIGA Inc. (Australia)
- Bay Area Intactivists (USA)
- beschneidungsforum.de – das Forum zum Thema Beschneidung (Germany)
- Berufsverband der Kinder- und Jugendärzte BVKJ (Germany)
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Säkulare Grüne (Germany)
- Canadian Foreskin Awareness Project (Canada)
- Children's Health & Human Rights Partnership (Canada)
- Deutsches Kinderbulletin – jedem Kind eine Chance / Politische Kindermedizin (Germany)
- Doctors Opposing Circumcision (D.O.C.) – Physicians for Genital Integrity (USA)
- Droit au corps (France)
- Facharbeitskreis Beschneidungsbetroffener im MOGiS e.V. – Eine Stimme für Betroffene (Germany)
- Forum Männer in Theorie und Praxis der Geschlechterverhältnisse (Germany)
- Genital Autonomy (Great Britain)
- Genital Autonomy America (USA)
- Giordano-Bruno-Stiftung (Germany)
- IBKA – Internationaler Bund der Konfessionslosen und Atheisten (Germany)
- Initiative gegen Gewalt und sexuellen Missbrauch an Kindern und Jugendlichen e.V. (Germany)
- (I)NFACT – Internationale Aktion gegen die Beschneidung von Mädchen und Frauen e.V. (Germany)
- Intact Africa
- Intact Denmark (Denmark)
- Intact Kenya (Kenya)
- Intact Switzerland (Switzerland)
- Intaction (USA)
- intaktiv e.V. – eine Stimme für genitale Selbstbestimmung (Germany)
- Just a snip“ (Denmark)
- M.E.L.I.N.A Inzestkinder/Menschen aus VerGEWALTigung e.V. (Germany)
- Men Do Complain (Great Britain)
- MOGiS e.V. – “Eine Stimme für Betroffene“ (Germany)
- NORM-UK / 15 Square (Great Britain)
- Partei der Humanisten (Germany)
- Piratenpartei Deutschland (Germany)
- pro familia Nordrhein-Westfalen (Germany)
- Pro Kinderrechte CH (Switzerland)
- Projekt 100% Mensch – Liebe Recht Respekt (Germany)
- Protect the Child (Israel)
- Schwules Netzwerk NRW e.V. (Germany)
- Sexpo (Finland)
- TABU International e.V. – Gegen Genitalverstümmelung, für Frauen- und Kinderrechte (Germany)
- TERRE DES FEMMES – Menschenrechte für die Frau e.V. (Germany)
- Your Whole Baby (USA)
- Zentralrat der Ex-Muslime (Germany)

www.genital-autonomy.de



May 7th: Cologne Ruling's 5th Birthday WORLDWIDE DAY OF GENITAL AUTONOMY

This will be the fifth anniversary of the "Cologne Ruling". In 2012, for the first time, a court explicitly granted boys the right to genital self-determination by evaluating a medically unnecessary foreskin removal ("circumcision") of a boy as an offense. This decision has since become a worldwide symbol for the self-determination of children regardless of gender, ancestry or religion.

This year's main focus is:

CIRCUMCISION PROJECTS IN AFRICA

Through the efforts of organizations like USAID, UNICEF and The World Bank, countless boys have been and are still at risk of becoming victims of forced circumcision under the alleged aim of protection against HIV infection. On the 7th of May, those affected will finally be heard.

The "World Day of Genital Autonomy" calls for:

- **An immediate stop to group or mass circumcision of minor males (boys) for alleged HIV prevention in African countries.**
- **Adherence to and implementation of the UN-Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 2 (protection against discrimination); Article 3 (preference of children's well-being); and Article 24 Paragraph 3 (abolishment of traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children).**
- **Legislative initiatives worldwide that provide for the protection of all children, regardless of gender, from non-therapeutic genital operations.**
- **Increased measures also against so-called "less invasive" and medicalized forms of female genital mutilation.**
- **Protection of children with atypical sex characteristics from genital surgery and intervention without absolute medical indication.**
- **Public research and education on the consequences of non-therapeutic genital surgery on children in its different forms and social contexts.**

Impressum

genitale-selbstbestimmung.de

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www.die-betroffenen.de

Prince Hillary Maloba, vmmcproject.org (Kenya):
"I support this day because it stands up to Western propaganda that circumcising Africans will reduce HIV/AIDS. It is a day to send a strong message that circumcision failed to stop HIV/AIDS in America and cannot reduce or prevent HIV/AIDS in Africa. African men who believed they were protected by circumcision are now on ARVs or dying from AIDS, leaving thousands of AIDS orphans. The main agents of this disaster are the medical establishment and the corrupt governments that allow world powers to maintain their control over Africa. We view it as a violation of our rights that is increasing HIV and STIs among men, women, and youths. I demand the banning of the West's circumcision agenda in Africa. It has discriminated against the African people."

Dr. Idah Nabateregga, TERRE DES FEMMES – Human Rights for Women, Department Female Genital Mutilation (Germany):
"Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, as well as male circumcision, if applied to children who can't give an informed consent, is a fundamental violation of the child's right of bodily integrity and self-determination and cannot be justified either with religion or tradition. Therefore, TERRE DES FEMMES rejects the current rule in Germany to grant impunity for medically unnecessary circumcision of boys who aren't able to give informed consent."

Topic 2017: Africans are resisting circumcision programs

Time and again, the media report a shockingly large number of seriously injured African boys, possibly 65,000 a year, and several hundred deaths from ritual circumcisions. Circumcision programs, financed with millions of US dollars for alleged HIV prophylaxis, unleash a cruel dynamic: since the established quotas are often not reached in adults, minors are increasingly targeted to reach the goal. Mothers are manipulated before the birth of their child using one-sided information. It has been repeatedly reported how boys are systematically "kidnapped" directly from school without the knowledge of their parents, attracted with soft drinks, sweets and false promises, and then circumcised before being sent home. The medical staff receive rewards. In the VMMC research project www.vmmcproject.org from Kenya and Uganda, the victims now are now getting a voice for the first time.

Together against female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation is a prevalent procedure: it is practised in 29 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa as well as in South-, South-East- and Central Asia. But even in Europe, the USA and Canada, women and girls still have their genitals mutilated. This is commonly done between the ages of 4 and 12 years. Worldwide, approximately 140 million women and girls are affected. 700.000 of them live in Europe; 35.000 in Germany alone. Female genital mutilation is classified by the World Health Organization (WHO) into four categories, from light to extreme. According to the WHO, female genital mutilation refers to all practices in which the outer genitalia are partly or completely removed, as well as to all other injuries to the female genitalia that are not medically indicated. Depending on the motives and category of cutting, the intervention leads to health, psychological, social and economic consequences for the affected parties. Female genital mutilation is internationally considered a human rights violation; gender specific violence; child abuse; and bodily assault, and is explicitly illegal in most countries. However, 3 million women and girls in Africa, 180.000 in Europe and 9.300 in Germany remain at risk every year.

Education leads to protection of boys

A controversial social debate is being held around the world on the topic of non-therapeutic amputation of foreskins from minors. Especially in Denmark and also in Israel, negatively affected men have been highlighted in the media and talk about lifelong mental and physical consequences.

The inter-cultural dialogue concerning this often anxiety-laden and taboo subject spurs new and ongoing initiatives, and is increasingly appreciated and embraced in medical science. Some hospitals already have stopped performing foreskin removals without a medical indication. Instead, parents are offered deeper education about the sexual-sensory function of the foreskin. A snug foreskin does not constitute a medical condition in children and adolescents, if a boy has no painful obstruction, which is a rare condition. Normally the opening becomes wider during puberty. In instances of an actual medical condition, most cases can be treated non-invasively.

In the United States, an average of about 60 % of all newborn boys are still submitted to forced circumcision in infancy, frequently without sufficient anesthesia.

Suffering and trauma of intersex-children due to genital surgery without their own consent

One or two out of every 1000 children are born with "atypical" sexual characteristics. Time and again this leads to early genital operations to "assign" a gender, and to hormonal treatments before capacity to consent. The affected persons often report feeling altered and resentful that their input was never sought about their own sex.

All German paediatric associations currently recommend delaying those measures to an age where the person affected is able to give informed consent. On the international level, also, the technical discussion is moving in this direction. However, physical integrity and self-determination must still be integrated into practice in many places.

For 20 years, people affected have been publicly protesting these surgeries, which they describe in terms of fundamental human rights violations, as being traumatising and as destructive to sexual sensation. These are allegations that are also backed by human rights committees like the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC).

The Cologne Ruling

On May 7th, 2012, the Regional Court of Cologne ruled that a non-therapeutic „circumcision“ of a boy who is unable to give consent qualifies as an assault. This was logically consistent because, in Germany, children had rights to an unharmed body and a non-violent upbringing – why should these rights exclude genitalia, and exclusively male ones at that?

What is a so-called "circumcision" on boys?

This trivializing term stands for the amputation of the foreskin of the penis, which involves the loss of approximately 50 % of the entire penile skin – including the parts most sensitive for sexual stimulation – and irreversibly alters the natural physiology of the penis and its appearance.

A human rights violation becomes a legal part of upbringing

The German Bundestag decided on 12.12.2012, in a rushed proceeding in response to the Cologne ruling, that parents can assent for any reason to a "circumcision" of their boys. This is a complete contradiction to the full legal protection of children and is discordant with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in multiple ways.

For more information, movies, articles, books please visit:
<https://genitale-selbstbestimmung.de/info/>



Jonathan Friedman, Intaction (USA):

"As an American man with an Orthodox Jewish background, I am proud to be participating in Worldwide Day of Genital Autonomy 2017 in New York with Intaction. Founder Anthony Losquadro will be deploying Intaction's Mobile Education Unit, a repurposed truck whose sides are emblazoned with photos of men holding their baby photos along with the text, "Circumcision: I did not consent" written in several languages. There is also a display with a doll strapped to a board including surgical instruments, which leads many onlookers to newly understand the severity of circumcision as experienced by an infant child. All children deserve the right be protected from harm. On WWDOGA, we stand united to petition our governments to uphold this basic human right, including the right to genital autonomy for all."

Dr. Christoph Kupferschmid, BVKJ – (German pediatric association):

"From the point of view of all the pediatric associations in Germany, medically unnecessary circumcision of boys who aren't able to give informed consent is against the child's health and best interests. Circumcision modifies the body irreversibly and removes a large part of the penis's erotically sensitive tissue. This intervention carries risks and has negative consequences for health. Children endure pain, especially at the hands of non-medical circumcisers. They become traumatized and can suffer from the strain for the rest of their lives. Compromise of both self-confidence and sex life are common consequences. All children should be able to decide for themselves about surgical alterations of their genitals."