

Cologne
7. May 2022

7. May 2022
10:30 a.m. CET
Regional Court
Luxemburger Str. 111

Central Rally:
12 noon CET, Alter Markt
Videos & Live Stream
from 10 a.m. CET all day



WORLDWIDE DAY OF GENITAL AUTONOMY

This will be the tenth anniversary of the “Cologne Ruling”. In 2012, for the first time, a court explicitly granted boys the right to genital self-determination by concluding that medically unnecessary foreskin removal (“circumcision”) from a boy is an offense. This decision has since become a worldwide beacon for the self-determination of children regardless of gender, ancestry or religion.

This year’s main focus is:

10 Years of “Cologne Ruling”

The “Cologne Ruling” not only attracted worldwide attention and triggered controversial debates, but also gave rise to the proclamation of the first worldwide activity day focused on genital self-determination which includes all children without exception: WWDOGA!

The “Worldwide Day of Genital Autonomy” calls for:

- **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.**
- **Protection of children with atypical sex characteristics from genital surgery and intervention without absolute medical indication.**
- **An immediate stop to group or mass circumcision of minor males (boys) for alleged HIV prevention in African countries.**
- **Public research and education on the consequences of non-therapeutic genital surgery on children in its different forms and social contexts.**



Mona Plate
founding member and
counselor at ira e.V.:
*"As a point of contact and
counseling center for people
affected by gender-based
violence, the circumcision of
children who are incapable
of giving consent belongs
to the long list of issues for
which we provide counseling.
ira e.V. supports people
in finding their way out of
coercive situations into a
self-determined life of dignity
and social participation."*

Rana Ahmad
Chair woman
Secular Refugee Relief:
*"How can we still be
practicing thousand year old
rites that mutilate children?
Culture or religion cannot
be a justification for that."*

Ann-Marlene Henning
Sexologist:
*"Test it yourself! Foreskin?
You can hardly imagine what
it means to cut off this small
piece of the male body? It
can't make that much of a
difference - or can it? Caress
the back of your hand, this
is similar to the sensitivity
of the shaft of the penis.
Now caress the palm of
your hand, which comes
very close to the feeling
of the foreskin. And now,
snip, snap, off with it. No!
The foreskin has a function
and is an erotic organ. It
belongs on the penis. Unless
someone decides differently
about their own body. And
the clitoris? It is the most
sensitive area on a human
body and needs its foreskin."*

Focus 2022: 10 Years of "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?

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.

In 2022, we look back:

What traces has the "Cologne Ruling" left behind?

What developments have become apparent worldwide since then?

WWDOGA looks at legal, medical, political, human rights, religious, media, gender and diversity aspects. The perspectives of those directly or indirectly affected are central.

Let's get into an international, cultural and interdisciplinary conversation!

When will girls finally be protected?

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.

The practice is internationally recognized in every form as a serious human rights violation and is still practiced worldwide: in 29 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in South, Southeast and Central Asia, as well as in Europe, the US and Canada. Particularly in Asia, surgeries done by medical staff are increasing, leading to repeated calls for legal acquiescence – which clearly contradicts the WHO.

**For more information, movies, articles,
books please visit:**



Boys own their genitals themselves, too

The trivializing term "circumcision" 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. Possible psychological late effects have also increasingly been documented.

Total foreskin removal is medically avoidable except in very rare cases. A snug or non-retractile foreskin does not constitute a medical condition in children and adolescents if a boy has no painful obstruction, which is a rare condition. Usually the opening becomes wider until the end of puberty. In instances of an actual medical condition, most cases can be treated non-invasively.

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).

Discrimination against trans* people

Trans* people often want to match their physical characteristics to their true gender by surgery. If a vulva is to be formed from a penis, without the foreskin ideal tissue is missing to a considerable extent.

**You haven't seen the 24 WWDOGA 2021
videos of people from 14 countries yet?**



David Balashinsky
P.T., Liaison for Human Rights,
DoctorsOpposingCircumcision.org,
Admin. Facebook Page
"Jews Against Circumcision":
*"There is no type of
genital cutting (GC) - from
penile circumcision to intersex
surgery to infibulation - that
does not contradict every
belief I hold and everything I
am. I'm Jewish; Jewish ethics
demand that I oppose GC. I'm
a healthcare worker; medical
ethics demand that I oppose
GC. I'm a secular humanist;
humanism demands that I
oppose GC. I'm a feminist;
feminism demands that I
oppose GC. I'm a progressive;
progressivism demands that I
oppose GC. I'm a supporter of
abortion rights; the principle
of bodily autonomy demands
that I oppose GC. I'm a
human being; my humanity
demands that I oppose GC."*

Gwladys Awo
Lessan e.V.:
*"Lessan e.V. has been working
for the social integration
of people with refugee and
migration biographies through
transcultural projects since
2009. A particular focus of
the association is education
and training against FGM/
FGC. Those affected and
threatened need professional
help and support at all levels."*

There is no room for hatred and misanthropy!

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 children.

Appealing for the WWDOGA are (as of Mar 13th, 2022):

- 15 Square (GB)
- AKTION REGEN – Verein für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (Austria)
- Aktion Weißes Friedensband e. V. (Germany)
- Al-Rahman – mit Vernunft und Hingabe (Switzerland and Germany)
- Attorneys for the rights of the child (USA)
- The Darbon Institute (Australia)
- Bay Area Intactivists (USA)
- Ben Shalem (Israel)
- Beschneidungsforum.de – das Forum zum Thema Beschneidung (Germany)
- Berliner Koordinierungsstelle gegen FGM_C (Germany)
- Berufsverband der Kinder- und Jugendärzte BVKJ (Germany)
- Bloodstained Men & their Friends (USA)
- Bündnis für sexuelle Selbstbestimmung Augsburg (Germany)
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Säkulare Grüne (Germany)
- Bundesforum Männer – Interessenverband für Jungen, Männer und Väter e. V. (Germany)
- Canadian Foreskin Awareness Project (Canada)
- Children's Health & Human Rights Partnership (Canada)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Transidentität und Intersexualität e. V. – dgti (Germany)
- Deutsches Kinderbulletin – jedem Kind eine Chance / Politische Kindermedizin (Germany)
- Doctors Opposing Circumcision (D.O.C.) – Physicians for Genital Integrity (USA)
- Droit au Corps (Francophonie: France, Belgium, Switzerland, Québec, Africa)
- Facharbeitskreis Beschneidungsbetroffener im MOGiS e. V. – Eine Stimme für Betroffene (Germany)
- Familienplanungszentrum Berlin e. V. (Germany)
- Foreskin Revolution (Australia)
- Forum Männer in Theorie und Praxis der Geschlechterverhältnisse (Germany)
- Förderkreis AIDS- und FGM-Aufklärung e. V. Feuervogel.Org – Aufklärungsprojekte über Genitalverstümmelung bei Mädchen und Frauen in Westafrika (Germany)
- Future Choices (GB)
- Giordano-Bruno-Stiftung (Germany)
- GSSG: Gemeinnützige Stiftung Sexualität und Gesundheit (Germany)
- GynZone (Denmark)
- HennaMond e. V. – Mut, Rat und Lebenshilfe (Germany)
- Ibn Rushd-Goethe Moschee (Germany)
- (I)NACT – Internationale Aktion gegen die Beschneidung von Mädchen und Frauen e. V. (Germany)
- Intact Africa (Africa)
- Intact America (USA)
- Intact Australia (Australia)
- Intact Denmark (Denmark)
- Intact Iceland (Iceland)
- Intact Kenya (Kenya)
- Intact Nederland (Netherlands)
- Intact Norway (Norway)
- Intact Switzerland (Switzerland)
- Intaction (USA)
- inaktiv e. V. – eine Stimme für genitale Selbstbestimmung (Germany)
- irä e. V. (Germany)
- JÄ-Verenigen, Turku/Åbo, (Finland)
- Jews Against Circumcision (USA)
- Jungs e. V. (Germany)
- KAHAL (Israel)
- LAG DIE LINKE. queer Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
- LAG DIE LINKE. queer NRW (Germany)
- LAG Jungen*- und Männer*arbeit Bayern e. V. (Germany)
- LAG Jungen*- & Männer*arbeit Baden-Württemberg e. V. – LAGJ (Germany)
- LAG Jungenarbeit in NRW e. V. (Germany)
- LAG Laizismus Bayern – Die Linke (Germany)
- Lessan e. V. (Germany)
- Lobby für Mädchen e. V. (Germany)
- Men Do Complain (GB)
- MOGiS e. V. – Eine Stimme für Betroffene (Germany)
- Partei der Humanisten (Germany)
- PATHOS München e. V. (Germany)
- prepuce.ch – Genitale Selbstbestimmung (Switzerland)
- pro familia Augsburg e. V. (Germany)
- pro familia Bayern e. V. (Germany)
- pro familia Niedersachsen e. V. (Germany)
- pro familia Nordrhein-Westfalen e. V. (Germany)
- Pro Kinderrechte CH (Switzerland)
- Projekt 100% MENSCH (Germany)
- Save The Child (Israel)
- Säkulare Flüchtlingshilfe e. V. (Germany)
- The Secular Medical Forum (GB)
- Sexpa (Finnland)
- TABU International e. V. – Gegen Genitalverstümmelung, für Frauen- und Kinderrechte (Germany)
- TERRE DES FEMMES – Menschenrechte für die Frau e. V. (Germany)
- Das VMCM Experience Project (Kenya, Uganda)
- Väteraufbruch für Kinder – Kreisverein Köln e. V. (Germany)
- Verband medizinischer Fachberufe e. V. (Germany)
- Your Whole Baby (USA)
- Zentralrat der Ex-Muslime e. V. (Germany)



Publishing Details
www.genital-autonomy.de

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content:
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