

An email exchange with Darrel Gregory, the Executive Director / Registered Manager of the Thornhill Clinic, the leading clinic in the UK carrying out male circumcisions – 10 February, 2016

BACKGROUND

The Thornhill Clinic is in Luton, and proudly boasts on its website, 'We are the UK's largest private male circumcision clinic'. It is the facility carrying out circumcisions advertised on the website, Circumcision Centre. The latter website refers to four doctors carrying out the procedure, and we understand them to be the four doctors identified on a page on the Thornhill Clinic website, here. We archived the page – here – and linked to it in a blog piece, here. In that piece, and in an earlier one, we explained that we planned to protest outside the clinic, in a similar manner to the protest on International Men's Day, at which we had supported Men Do Complain.

The four doctors were named and placed on the Genital Mutilators Directory by A Voice for Men, and we publicized and applauded the fact, linking to the individual pieces.

I recently debated male circumcision with Dr Simon Hochhauser, a Co-Chairman of Milah UK, a Jewish organization promoting circumcision for Jewish males at eight days of age, on BBC 3 Counties Radio. The audio file is here. Before the programme, the producer asked me not to mention the Thornhill Clinic during the discussion, as the BBC had been warned by the clinic that it was considering taking legal action against me. I laughed at the idea of an organization carrying out illegal procedures – the circumcisions of male minors – taking to court someone who had publicized the fact they were doing so.

Early last week I was called by a policewoman based at Luton Police Station. She explained that as far as she understood the matter, I had committed no criminal offence, but asked that I cease emailing the clinic, to which I agreed. I sent her a copy of an email we'd sent the previous day, advising Bedfordshire Police of our intention to stage one or more protests outside the clinic.

Last Thursday I received an email from Darrel Gregory, the Executive Director and Registered Manager of the clinic. The content of the email is below, my responses are highlighted in yellow. I have had no response to my request for the information which he deems to be '... not only misleading but factually incorrect', and a further email asking for this information remains unanswered.

From: info@thornhillclinic.co.uk
To: mike@j4mb.org.uk
Subject: Thornhill Clinic
Date: Wed, 10 Feb 2016 15:26:16 +0000

Dear Mr Buchanan,

We are writing to ask that you remove any reference to our clinic and our doctors from your website with immediate effect. **Thank you for asking. The answer is a resounding NO.**

Please be advised that your interpretations of the extracts taken from our website are not only misleading but factually incorrect. Please provide details, and we'll very speedily remove anything which is *genuinely* misleading and/or factually incorrect.

More importantly your use of photos of our doctors and staff without appropriate consent is illegal. It's illegal to publicise the photographs of people who freely admit to carrying out criminal offences? Who'd have thought it? Also your references to our doctors being placed on a made up register is a defamation of character. Could you direct me towards any registers which weren't 'made up'? In publicising (along with the estimable people at A Voice for Men <http://avoiceformen.com>) that your four doctors (among others in the UK and elsewhere) are mutilating the genitals of male minors, and that this practise is illegal - I've already sent you the link to the 2013 talk by James Chegwidan, a barrister, let me know if you'd like me to do so again - is to publicise what are unquestionably *facts*. It is also an unquestionable fact that MGM is a human rights violation, contravening several Articles of UN and EU conventions. It is also known to lead to a great deal of harm and suffering, as Tim Hammond's Global Survey of Circumcision Harm has revealed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i39V2ZIONV8>

Tim will be speaking on circumcision harm at the second International Conference on Men's Issues, London, July 8-10:

<https://icmi16.wordpress.com/>

MGM is a grotesque human rights violation - the carving of religions and cultures into the genitals of male minors legally unable to provide consent, and in the case of your clinic, for personal financial gain. If the publication of facts can be regarded as 'defamation of character', the problem lies with the doctors working at your clinic, rather than the facts.

We appreciate you are entitled to your views but not at the expense of good reputations that have been built over many years. Good reputations for carrying out criminal offences against male minors? We appear to have a wildly different view as to the meaning of the term, 'good reputations'.

May we also point out that the clinic has very recently been inspected by the Care Quality Commission and recommended for an outstanding status. Outstanding status in carrying out criminal offences against male minors. What a topsy-turvy world we live in, to be sure. We also practice to all General Medical Council and Royal College of Surgeon's guidelines. What is the legal basis under which your doctors carry out the procedures?

Once again we ask you to remove all names and photos relating to our clinic and staff from your website with immediate effect. Once again, NO.

We look forward to protesting outside your clinic shortly. Expect something similar to the following - our last protest, with Men Do Complain <http://mendocomplain.com>, on International Men's Day, in Parliament Square - if not more substantial, given your boast of being the leading clinic in the country to carry out the illegal practise of circumcising male minors.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxR_uX6pYeE

Have a nice day.

Kind regards

Darrel Gregory *MInstLM Dip.RSA*
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