



Kemp House
152 City Road
London EC1V 2NX
Tel: 07967 026163
Email: mail@j4mb.org.uk
Web: j4mb.org.uk

Amber Rudd MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
London SW1P 4DF

2 December 2016

Dear Ms Rudd,

Freedom of Information request concerning Male Genital Mutilation (MGM)

I lead the only political party in the English-speaking world campaigning for the human rights of men and boys. In our 2015 general election manifesto we explored 20 areas where the human rights of men and/or boys are assaulted by the actions and/or inactions of the state.¹ In stark contrast, the human rights of women and girls *specifically* are assaulted by the state in no areas.

In July we hosted the second International Conference on Men's Issues.² People from 20 countries attended, and the 20 speakers included five women and Philip Davies MP, talking about 'The Justice Gender Gap'.³ An American speaker talked about The Global Survey of Infant Circumcision Harm,⁴ the subject to which I now turn.

One of our key campaigning issues is the non-therapeutic circumcision of male minors (Male Genital Mutilation, MGM). A prominent barrister started his presentation at a human rights conference in 2013 with the following:

The default position of the criminal law is that circumcision is a crime, and it requires a parliamentary override to stop it being a crime. **There is no such override.** [My emphasis.] The general position of the Common Law is protective of bodily autonomy, and that cannot be trespassed by the state, or by others. The state has the right to enact laws to stop other people from violating those principles. It is the strongest principle of the law that it reserves its strongest penalties for breaches of bodily integrity.

Performing MGM is an example of occasioning bodily harm on someone (a minor) who does not have legal capacity to give permission to that bodily harm, and the procedure clearly breaches the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. It also breaches numerous Articles of UN and EU human rights conventions.

¹ <http://tinyurl.com/J4MB2015manifesto>

² <http://icmi16.wordpress.com>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VoFdG4cSAM>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8izzCSRhKXs>

It is a fundamental principle of the Common Law, that exemptions to the law are not permissible on cultural or legal grounds. The obvious questions arise, why is the government not seeking to end the illegal practice of MGM, and why are the police not bringing prosecutions against those carrying out MGM?

We have peacefully protested in the past against MGM outside the Thornhill Clinic in Luton, the leading private circumcision clinic in the country. Luton has a large Muslim population. We've also protested in Golders Green, which has a large Jewish population, and outside the Home Office, the CPS, and in Parliament Square. We plan to carry on with these protests.

MGM is unnecessary, harmful, unethical, illegal, and doesn't even make sense from a religious perspective. It isn't mentioned in the Koran. For Jews, the same 'holy books' which instruct followers to carry out circumcision at eight days (Genesis, Leviticus) also instruct followers to kill adulteresses, homosexuals, blasphemers, and people who disobey their parents. Those are obviously not permitted in Britain today, so why is the butchery of male minors' genitals on religious and cultural grounds still permitted? The answer is simple – because the criminal justice system is failing to protect these vulnerable minors. With your position in relation the police, you could change that, and give these minors the protection they have long deserved.

On our Vimeo channel we have a section dedicated to videos and audio files in relation to MGM.⁵

My Freedom of Information request is this:

Why are the police not bringing prosecutions against those who carry out non-therapeutic circumcision of male minors, the infliction of bodily harm on minors without the legal capacity to give permission to that bodily harm, in breach of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861?

Yours sincerely,

Mike Buchanan
PARTY LEADER

⁵ <https://vimeo.com/album/3771718>