



A prominent human rights barrister stated the following at a UK conference in 2013:

“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. 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.”

There are currently three potential legal actions in the pipeline relating to the non-therapeutic circumcision of male minors (Male Genital Mutilation, MGM). In Nottingham, Dr Balvinder Mehat was arrested on suspicion of committing Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent.<sup>1</sup> The circumcised boy's paternal grandparents were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit Grievous Bodily Harm. Mike Buchanan is planning a private prosecution of Dr Joseph Spitzer, a *mohez* (Jewish circumciser) based in Stamford Hill.<sup>2</sup> The third case relates to Mike Buchanan's appeal to the High Court over his conviction in 2016 for obstructing the highway in Parliament Square, during a protest about the failure of the CPS and police to prosecute those who circumcise male minors, usually for financial gain.<sup>3</sup>

**Justice for Men & Boys (and the women who love them)**<sup>4</sup> – J4MB – is a political party, launched in 2013. It remains the only political party in the English-speaking world campaigning for the human rights of men and boys, on many fronts. We've made over 100 appearances on mainstream radio and television programmes since the party's launch, all of which are on our YouTube channel.<sup>5</sup> We hosted the highly successful second International Conference on Men's Issues in London in 2016,<sup>6</sup> and shall be hosting the fourth conference in Birmingham in 2018.<sup>7</sup>

Our leading campaign is to end MGM in the UK. The amputation of the foreskin, which is extremely rich in nerve endings, inevitably reduces the sexual pleasure of men. MGM has been a crime since at least the passing of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 – 156 years ago. Female Genital Mutilation – ‘FGM’ – has been specifically illegal since the passing of the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985 – 32 years ago.

MGM was covered in our 2015 general election manifesto.<sup>8</sup> It blights millions of new lives around the world every year. Only 5% of British men are Jewish or Muslim, but 18% of British men are circumcised. The vast majority were subjected to this unnecessary body modification without giving their informed consent, because they were under 18 at the time. Our YouTube channel has a playlist of pieces concerning MGM.<sup>9</sup>

**We call on the Conservative government to make MGM specifically illegal, in line with FGM, at the earliest opportunity. We owe it to future generations to end these assaults on children.**

<sup>1</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/BalvinderMehat>

<sup>2</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/JosephSpitzer>

<sup>3</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/MBprotest>

<sup>4</sup> <http://j4mb.org.uk>

<sup>5</sup> <http://tinyurl.com/J4MBYouTube>

<sup>6</sup> <http://icmi16.wordpress.com>

<sup>7</sup> <http://icmi18.wordpress.com>

<sup>8</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/V10manifesto> (pp. 9,10)

<sup>9</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/MGMplaylist>