

## Comments on MGM article by Nicholas Heller for *The Sunday Times*, 8 April, 2018

The article, for subscribers:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mother-calls-for-ban-on-circumcision-0jb8vs225>

Our blog piece, with the article content:

<https://j4mb.org.uk/2018/04/08/sunday-times-mother-calls-for-ban-on-circumcision/>

The comments stream:

### Featured Comments

@Bernadette Bowles @Mike Buchanan @zau Bernadette, we have the assurance from a leading human rights barrister that it is GBH with Intent under OAPA 1861. That's why the CPS/police initially arrested the doctor (and one or both paternal grandparents) on these grounds.

We have sent numerous FoI requests to politicians, civil servants etc., and not once have they denied it is GBH with Intent. Parental consent cannot be given to inflicting MGM on minors. Indeed, legally, adults cannot agree to GBH done on themselves, though prosecutions are rarely brought.

We are talking about NON-therapeutic circumcision here. Vaccination is done because it has a therapeutic value, so there's no parallel. Ear piercing is an odd one, and I'd like to see it made illegal on minors. Unlike MGM however, it's reversible i.e. remove the earring, the hole seals up (more or less neatly).

Mike Buchanan 6 days ago Recommend 12 Reply Delete

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Thecaveartist 6 days ago

Time for this mutilating of boys to end. I hope this prosecution is successful.

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Odin 6 days ago

I wish the mother all the luck in the world but I am afraid that all British governments continuous capitulation to Mediaeval practices will ensure she fails due to pressure from the two religious groups that insist on them, circumcision, unacceptable slaughter methods and face coverings while more civilised countries outlaw them in an attempt to move those that practice them 1500 years forward.

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Paul Whitworth 6 days ago

The foreskin is there for a good reason: it eases penetration as well as protecting sensitivity.

Circumcision is an archaic and barbaric practice whose days are numbered. Associating circumcision with cleanliness or godliness has murky roots in atavistic attitudes to women and to sexual pleasure. God has nothing to do with it.

Make it illegal as soon as possible.

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Isabel Oviedo 6 days ago

This custom is so barbaric and antediluvian. It should be banned in Europe.

The grandmother and father of this boy should be prosecuted for being so backwards and doing this without the consent of the mother.

And if I were the mother of this boy, I would not allow him to be near the family of his father ever again.

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ArtemisiaFranklin 6 days ago

The father and grandmother should be pursued with the full weight of the law - no ifs or buts. To take another woman's child, and do this without her knowledge or consent is unbelievable, quite apart from the horror of the thing itself for the child.

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Brunel 7 days ago

Medically unnecessary operations on children without their consent should be banned. Forget the 'covenant with God' nonsense or whatever other cultural or religious justifications are given. Forget also the false claims of victim hood by those groups who feel they're being targeted: it's not about them, it's about the rights of children, whom society has an obligation to protect.

It's time to grow up as a society and this would be one small step along that journey.

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Andy Webb 6 days ago

It's barbaric religious nonsense.

No child, male or female should have to endure having their genitals mutilated because of a stupid religious cult.

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Mike Buchanan 6 days ago

Circumcision is illegal in the UK, being Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent, a crime under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Indeed the doctor was arrested last year on exactly this charge, but the CPS / police dropped the case. It would require a parliamentary override to be legal, and that has never existed. There are no exemptions to the laws of England and Wales for religious or cultural considerations. It follows, as night follows day, that both the doctor and the grandmother in this case are criminals, and should be prosecuted.

I lead Justice for Men & Boys <https://j4mb.org.uk>, the only political party in the English-speaking world campaigning for the human rights of men and boys, on many fronts. Ending the non-therapeutic circumcision of male minors (Male Genital Mutilation, MGM) has been our #1 campaigning objective for the past three years. Our YouTube play list of MGM-related video and audio pieces is [here https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjMscr0TpRqgDT--hnKe3XOKXypbM\\_R2K](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjMscr0TpRqgDT--hnKe3XOKXypbM_R2K).

MGM is also a violation of UN and EU human rights conventions. It is time to stop religions being carved into the genitals of male minors, who legally cannot give consent. MGM is barbarous, and has no place in a civilised society.

We're hosting the fourth International Conference on Men's Issues in London, 20-22 July. There will be a screening of the new award-winning film "American Circumcision", in the presence of the director, Brendon Marotta. Steven Svoboda, an American lawyer and famous intactivist, will be giving a talk.

If you wish to understand MGM, and why prosecutions must be brought against the criminals making money from the practice, a good place to start is a piece by William Collins:

<http://mra-uk.co.uk/?p=519>

His pieces debunking the claimed medical benefits for MGM:

Part 1 – <http://mra-uk.co.uk/?p=1604>

Part 2 – <http://mra-uk.co.uk/?p=1655>

Part 3 – <http://mra-uk.co.uk/?p=1675>

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PaulW 6 days ago

I completely agree and have this for ages. There is no need for the term Female Genital Mutilation or Male Genital Mutilation. There is GBH. Parents can consent to their children being operated on for medical reasons but not non-medical ones.

The same goes for harming minors' ears by putting holes in them.

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Steve Hill 6 days ago

Why on earth is the CPS not prosecuting in a case where this mother (who has sole custody of the child) had the child assaulted by his father, grandmother and a doctor for heaven's sake?

Have the courts now permanently denied the father and his family access to the child? If not, why not?

What is the GMC doing about the doctor who acted in this case without getting the consent of the mother or apparently asking any meaningful questions? Why has he not been struck off?

Or is everybody pussyfooting around desperately trying not to upset community sensitivities, as usual?

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Chris 1966 6 days ago

This is assault pure and simple. Male Genital mutilation should be outlawed in this country.

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Marcus Aurelius 6 days ago

If I claim that god has appeared to me and instructed me to start a new religion in which, as a sign of our affiliation with god, all babies must have their left leg removed, I will rightly find myself in jail if I attempt to actually do that.

Yet, with no more justification other than a longer book with more words than I wrote above ( written by people who did not know where the sun went at night and whose neighbours thought it was pulled across the sky in a chariot) it is regarded as irrefutably correct to remove parts of male children?

Time for this nonsense to end.

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Tony Sutton 6 days ago

We are in the 21st century and some nutters are still mutilating their children because of superstitions that sprung up in the desert a few thousand years ago.

It is time for the government to step in and say that infant genital mutilation is illegal and make sure the law covers British children who are taken abroad to have them mutilated.

If an adult wants to have this op or any other form of cosmetic surgery later in life, they should have to undergo psychiatric counselling before paying to have the operation done privately.

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Marcus Aurelius 6 days ago

Quite right, Madam.

I have said for years that genital mutilation is genital mutilation - the sex of the person being mutilated is not relevant.

Best of luck in ending this barbaric practice.

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David Armstrong 6 days ago

Quite right. It is common assault and child molestation.

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KS 6 days ago

No-one should be circumcised without their consent, and the age of consent should be set at sixteen or eighteen. This is not a decision for parents or anyone else to make about babies or children. Additionally, if there is sufficient medical evidence to suggest that circumcision has no health benefits, perhaps it should be banned altogether.

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Minority Man 6 days ago

I am so enraged by this and the very primitive attitudes that bring this mutilation about that I shall say nothing more for fear of my posting being considered racist and being pulled. The child, a UK citizen, has been the victim of criminal assault, no matter what the perverted motives

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Jim Bills 6 days ago

The grandmothers within these cultures seem to be the driving force behind a lot of the suffering that the children are put through. They seem to be consumed by superstitious nonsense.

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Purple with a Red Hat 6 days ago

Circumcision *is* genital mutilation and that's all there is to it. If FGM is outlawed regardless of cultural and religious beliefs, why on earth isn't circumcision? It is time that it was.

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Andy Webb 6 days ago

There are people here defending circumcision under the guise of medical reasoning, which is fair given that there is a genuine medical reason.....not perceived prevention of something that may happen, ie, to "prevent infection" or "reduce the chance of getting HIV".....what utter nonsense!!

If these people could be honest, they would admit that they are in favour of circumcision purely on their religious grounds and that is completely wrong.

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Metlo 6 days ago

The person who carried out this procedure and the people who assisted in this against the mothers wishes, should be in prison.

Inflicting unnecessary excruciating pain on a child must be made illegal, regardless of gender.

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Michael 6 days ago

She is absolutely right to take a stand. All genital mitigation should be outlawed.

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Chester 6 days ago

Cutting children because parents are superstitious should be banned.

The only consent should come from the owner of the genitals which are to be mutilated, aged 18 minimum.

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NDA 6 days ago

Whilst it is never mentioned, I suspect my son is delighted I argued against him being circumcised. In my view, unless there is a pressing medical issue, boys should not be chopped in this way. It's quite the most barbaric thing to remove a highly sensitive part of a man's anatomy.

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