



A prominent human rights barrister stated the following in his talk 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.”

Performing the non-therapeutic circumcision of male minors (Male Genital Mutilation, MGM) has been a criminal offence since at least the passing of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, because it's at least Actual Bodily Harm, and almost certainly Grievous Bodily Harm, under that Act. **The law of the land does not allow for exemptions on religious and/or cultural grounds.**

Justice for Men & Boys (and the women who love them)¹ – 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 appeared on hundreds of mainstream radio and TV programmes since the party's launch, most of those appearances are on our YouTube channel.² We hosted the highly successful second and fourth **International Conferences on Men's Issues** in London, in 2016 and 2018.³ Our leading campaign since 2015 has been to end MGM in the UK.

We believe boys should enjoy the same protection from the state against genital mutilation, as that enjoyed by girls.

We have on our YouTube channel a playlist of 70+ video and audio pieces relating to MGM.⁴

Female Genital Mutilation – 'FGM' – has been specifically illegal since the passing of the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985 – 33 years ago. We call for that Act to be made gender-neutral.

MGM breaches numerous Articles of UN and EU human rights conventions.

MGM is regarded by many leading ethicists, including Brian D Earp of the University of Oxford, to be equally as unethical as FGM.⁵

MGM was covered in our 2015 general election manifesto.⁶ MGM 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 illegally subjected to this unnecessary body modification without giving their informed consent, being under 18 at the time.

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.

¹ <http://j4mb.org.uk>

² <http://tinyurl.com/J4MBYouTube>

³ <https://tinyurl.com/ICMIs>

⁴ <http://tinyurl.com/MGMplaylist>

⁵ <https://tinyurl.com/MandFGM>

⁶ <https://tinyurl.com/V10manifesto> (pp. 9,10)