

Lionel Shriver's Spectator piece on transgenderism 4.5.25

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M **Mike Buchanan**
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Excellent piece, thanks Lionel. I hope to see you one day write about another mental illness, the desire of parents to inflict genital mutilation on their sons, often when only babies. Genital mutilation - whether of males or females - has no place in a civilised society.

Performing male circumcision was already a criminal offence under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, being at least ABH and almost certainly GBH, 120+ years before the UK FGM laws. There are no exemptions allowed to the law in England and Wales on cultural or religious grounds. I tried to take out a private prosecution of a circumciser in Nottingham and a judge denied me the opportunity.

We should not be turning a blind eye to the genital mutilation of either sex. Why, then, does society (and the police, politicians, the criminal justice system) condone genital mutilation when the victims are male? For the answer to that, I refer readers to William Collins's "The Empathy Gap: Male Disadvantaged and the Mechanisms of Their Neglect". The ebook is a steal at under £5.00.

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