

26.2.2018

Name Jeremy S. Rosof

Email jrosof@gmail.com

Subject Icelandic Circumcision Ban: a return
to pre-enlightenment discrimination

Message Dear Sir/Madam:

The ban contemplated of male circumcision in Iceland is most peculiar. Circumcision is an ancient rite with health benefits that is endorsed by the physicians of the United States, who are among the most advanced in the world. Most American males are circumcised for health reasons. American laws protect the free exercise of religion, including male circumcision. Iceland proposes to ban male circumcision and criminalize those who exercise their faith sending them to jail for six years, but does nothing about the nearly identical "scourge" of ear piercing of girls, which is commonly practiced by ethnic Icelanders. One must question the selective focus and what it says about Iceland, esp. given the country's inglorious Holocaust era record, which included supplying members of the Nazi S.S. and denying admission to Austrian Jews, a population that faced certain death and which led the world in science, letters and the arts (Mahler, Schoenberg, and Freud to name a few). Iceland needs to decide whether it truly wants to be a liberal nation or to revert to

European medievalism with bans on Jews and Muslims as in Fifteenth and Sixteenth Century Spain. I was interested in visiting your country en route to continental Europe and the UK but now must reflect on what kind of a society exists in Iceland that could adopt such a narrow-minded, parochial and indeed insular law.

Sincerely,

Jeremy S. Rosof