

Parliament of Iceland (Althingi) 101 Reykjavík Iceland

April 26th 2018

Dear members of the parliament

I am a Danish medical doctor, and it's been brought to my attention that you are debating a possible ban on non-medical male child circumcision.

Being born in Iran and raised in an Islamic culture the first couple om my life's decades, I was circumcised when I was a child. So was my father and his father and that goes back in centuries. No body asked why. It was just some thing every body does: a gift from our ancestors am important ritual.

However living in a different society the past few decades where this practice i not taken for granted as wellas being a medical doctor has given me a new perspective on this unethical treatment of baby boys. Today I wish I could have my foreskin back. But I can't and I never will. That right was taken away from me by others. Those who took it away were not evil, they just did it because they thought they should and if they could give it back to me, they would. The problem is that the procedure was irrversable and no matter how bad you want to get it undone, it's simply not possible any more. That is why I could never offer this to my or any other children.

Dear ladies and gentlemen

You are holding the future of those defenceless male children in your hands. Please do not fail them, specially when born in a different culture than the majority. If this procedure is not good enough for your own children, it's not good enough for other children born in a differnt culture living in Iceland either.

All cultures and religions have gotten rid of some rituals and practices throughtout the course of history as those rituals have become less and less compatible with what we consider a civilised behavior. Please do not stigmatize members of certain cultures as religions as inferior to yours by accepting certain level of barbaric behavior as undetachable rituals for those religions and cultures.

In fact, I think many members of those groups are waiting for some legal support to overcome the group pressure and put an end to this meaningless physical damage to their children.

Most people in the nordic countries are for the right of individuals to their own body and a ban on bodily damage to children including male circumcision untill the individual has reached a minimum age for consent. As far as I know most politicians do share the same opinion too. However most of them are waiting for some other politicians to step forwad first for them to follow and together stand against the massive pressure from outside nordic countries.

I hope you will not give in the pressure and will be the pioneers to do what is right and protect the children and we will surely follow you.

Best regards

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