

**Dear Members of the Icelandic Parliament**

**Please allow us to address you regarding an issue that, being Jews, lies close to our heart, i.e.**

**the planned prohibition of circumcision of boys in Iceland. The male circumcision belongs to the**

**most central identity-establishing attributes of Judaism; it is of ultimate meaning in our religion.**

**Its prohibition would signify a massive interference with religious freedom, and Iceland would be**

**the first country of Europe to introduce such a law. A prohibition would render Jewish life in Iceland impossible.**

**Some 25 to 33 percent of the male world population are circumcised. It therefore appears to be**

**relevant to us to mention at this point that the male circumcision reduces the risks of venereal**

**diseases and infections, and that a prohibition of circumcision of boys for medical reasons thus**

**does not seem to be appropriate.**

**It goes without saying that we respect the sovereignty of the State of Iceland. As Swiss Jews,**

**we however also feel committed to raise our voice in support of the Icelandic Jews on this issue**

**that matters so much to us.**

**Consequently, we very kindly request you to acknowledge the fact that the foreseen prohibition encounters resistance outside of Iceland as well, and that this**

**draft bill, after examination of all arguments, should be reconsidered.**

**Herbert Winter  
President Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities**