

Alþingi
Kirkjustræti
150 Reykjavík

March 22, 2018

Regarding the proposed legislation banning non-therapeutic circumcision.

Dear Members of the Parliament,

My name today is Moe Love, but I was born Mounir Elharim in 1985 in Rabat, the capital of Morocco. Being born to a Muslim family it was a foregone conclusion that I would be circumcised, so when I was 4 days old I was stripped of an important part of my body. The gravity of that action would not become apparent to me until many years later in 2015 when I began researching thanks to a Facebook post I had seen, and as with many other people the more I found out the more horrified and angry I became.

Now it has been 3 years for me in that constant state of disbelief and fury that we are still cutting healthy parts off the genitals of baby boys for reasons that are spurious at best. I have felt like I don't have a choice but to spend countless amounts of time and energy to try to protect other people from what happened to me, and it has been a terrible time filled with unbearable disappointments and setbacks. In these 3 years I have also seen and learned about many attempts to protect baby boys which failed in the face of the types of pressure you are now being subjected to.

For a brief rebuttal of some of the ludicrous arguments and claims being made to support the practice of circumcision; cutting a religion into a baby's genitals is the exact opposite of religious freedom, the "medical" arguments are fraudulent and nonsensical, it's absolutely absurd to perform cosmetic surgery on an infant, and it's beyond outrageous that people would try to threaten Iceland's economy in order to protect circumcision because the right of baby boys to keep all their genitals isn't negotiable or for sale.

I and many other people are really hoping you won't end up being intimidated the way Germany and Norway and other countries have been. Please do the right thing and make your law on genital mutilation gender neutral so that boys can also have their right to genital integrity be acknowledged and protected.

Thanks,

Moe Love