

Alþingi
Kirkjustræti
150 Reykjavík

Efni: Umsögn um frumvarp til laga um breytingu á almennum hegningarlögum (bann við umskurði drengja), 148. löggjafarþing, 114. mál.

Rennes, 24 March 2018

Ágætu þingmenn Alþingis / Dear Members of the Parliament,

Because of the path my life has taken, I strongly support the bill on the ban on circumcision for males under 18. I was born in France in the 1980's. Up until my late teenage years I had intact genitals but because I suffered from a congenital malformation of the penis I had to be circumcised even though nothing was wrong with my foreskin itself. Ever since this happened, I have found sex not as pleasurable as before, I have suffered from the impact on my body image, I have not felt whole and suffered from the resulting psychological harm. So as a man who can compare the state of being intact and the state of being circumcised, I can testify that circumcision can cause harm, both physical and psychological.

What happened to me prompted me to think about the subject of circumcision. While girls are 100% protected from any cutting of their genitals, I cannot see any reason why boys should not benefit from the same right, why we should keep on considering this infringement on their right to bodily integrity as acceptable. Because of my personal story, I feel strong empathy towards the case of women and men who fight for the right of boys to keep intact genitals. To me having the right to keep one's body intact is simply a basic human right.

Please do what is right and help everybody take a step towards more respect of the individual and one's right to an unharmed body. I am looking towards Iceland with the greatest of hope today.

Thank you for your attention,

Yours sincerely,

Vincent Arnoult