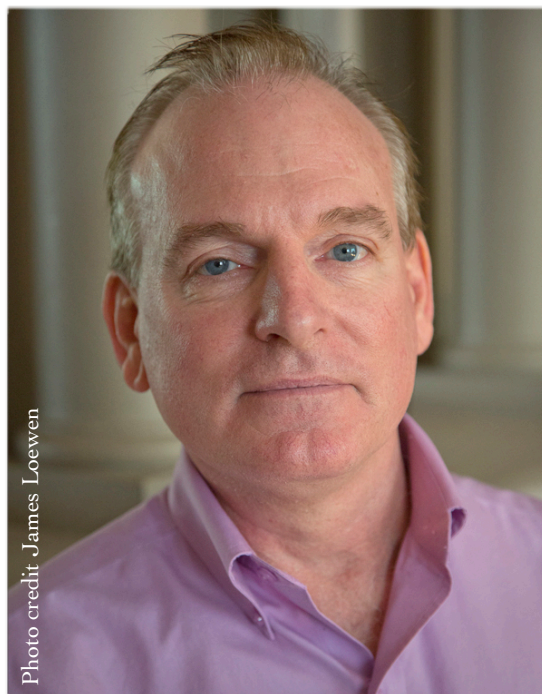


**GENDER EQUALITY DEMANDS THAT THE  
GENITAL INTEGRITY, AUTONOMY AND  
RIGHTS OF **ALL** CHILDREN BE EQUALLY  
PROTECTED**

If we in the LGBTI community truly believe in gender equality, we must recognize the inherently unequal treatment of girls compared to boys and intersex children when there are laws protecting the genital integrity and self-determination of girls without protecting boys and intersex children. When such flawed laws are adopted, they expose our own cultural chauvinism against other 'barbaric' cultural practices without examining our own practices that many now call barbaric.

While there are differences in the degree of cutting performed on girls versus boys, both practices have extremely anti-sexual histories and excuses. Even the medical practice of male (and female) circumcision is rooted in anti-sexual Victorian-era fears about children and sexuality. As well, the number of boys affected worldwide by genital cutting customs far exceeds that of girls.

Of course, it's pointless to create a hierarchy of suffering. All children deserve an open future that respects their bodies, their sexuality, and their human rights. This goal is consistent with the principles of the LGBTI movement.



This brochure was written by Tim Hammond, openly gay producer of the documentary "Whose Body, Whose Rights?", Founder NOHARMM, Co-Founder of the National Organization of Restoring Men, and Survey Programmer of the Global Survey of Circumcision Harm..

Tim is also the Co-Founder of the Children's Health & Human Rights Partnership, a registered Canadian Not-For-Profit organization of healthcare and law professionals joined in cooperation with concerned citizens who are dedicated to educating and advocating for the legally recognized rights of male, female, and intersex children to be protected from forced genital cutting.

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LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK AND  
HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT  
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AT:  
**WWW.CHHRP.ORG**

# CIRCUMCISION AND THE LGBTI COMMUNITY



❧ A GLOBAL ISSUE ❧

Circumcision of children of both genders is a worldwide problem that directly affects the lives of over 100 million females and more than 650 million males in the world today. In North America, genital mutilation customs are largely carried out only on males.

# Will you speak up for children?

## **CIRCUMCISION AFFECTS OUR GAY CHILDREN**

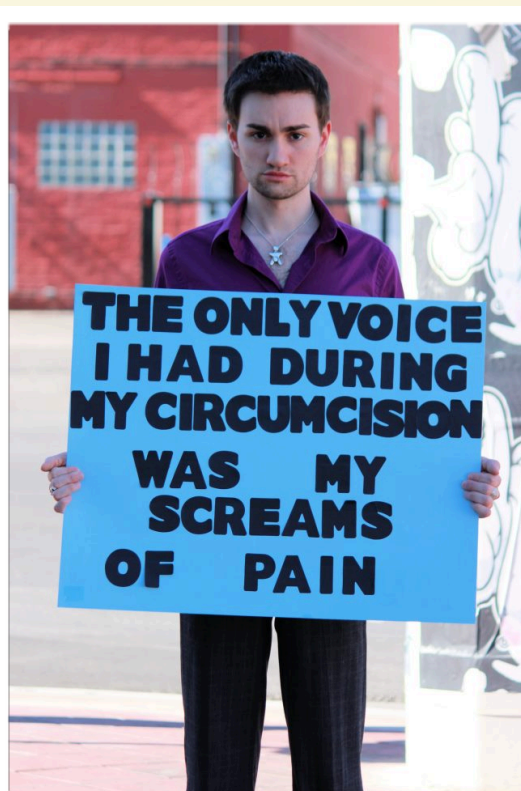
While rates are somewhat lower in Canada, in the U.S., the average rate of newborn circumcision stands today at 60% - with rates as low as 34% in the West and over 95% in the Midwest. Each year, over 1.25 million baby boys are subjected to this unanaesthetized and destructive genital alteration - more than 3,300 babies daily - one every 26 seconds! Ten percent of male newborns will grow up to be gay and, of those who are circumcised, many will resent this violation of their bodies and rights.

## **CIRCUMCISION IS A SEXUALLY OPPRESSIVE ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Circumcision is a practice of dominator societies under which women, children and gay people suffer. It is part of the old "Father Knows Best" mentality that treats children like chattel and implies that men are too stupid or lazy to practice good hygiene or responsible sex. Even the medical practice of circumcision in North America is rooted in Victorian-era anti-sexual beliefs. Forced circumcision of children violates the individual's rights of body ownership, self-determination and control over one's own reproductive organs.

## **FORCED CIRCUMCISION IS ANTI-FEMINIST**

Social, religious, and cultural pressures to circumcise infringe on a mother's inherent natural instinct to protect her children from harm. The pain of circumcision alone has been proven to seriously interrupt the natural bonding process of mother and child. Only in dominator societies are women pressured to surrender their children to be genitally cut.



Circumcision has affected gay men directly and indirectly. Over 80% of adult gay, bisexual, and heterosexual men in North America have had their natural genital integrity violated at birth. The remaining 20% of intact males were at times made to feel by the wider culture that their natural state is queer, abnormal, shameful or unclean.



The excuses submitted for circumcision... reveal anti-sexual attitudes at odds with the goals of gay liberation. Infant circumcision should be abandoned not only because it violates a defenseless person's rights, but also because it reinforces destructive anti-sexual attitudes that we as gay people need to oppose.

— Stop Circumcision (editorial), *The Guide: Gay Travel, Entertainment, Politics & Sex* - May 1996