

HUMAN RIGHTS BEFORE RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

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There are no religious rights or freedoms to inflict harm or injury upon another person contrary to the history of religious traditions. From the time of Abraham (*Genesis 17: 9-14; 22: 1-18; Numbers 31:17-18; Proverbs 23:13-14*); to Jesus Christ (*John 2:16-17*); to the Islamic Taliban violence against the human body is a common denominator of the monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Religious rights and freedoms end when they violate the religious rights and freedoms of others. The advances of human civilization are distinguished by the extent that institutionalized and personal violence is controlled and prevented.

There is no religious exemption to child sexual abuse, as the conviction of Philadelphia Msgr. William J. Lynn, who had no direct physical contact with the children, but aided and abetted their sexual abuse by priests in his diocese. Jon Hurdle and Erik Eckholm of the New York Times has reported that the jail sentence has yet to be given which has shaken the Roman Catholic Church. The genital mutilation of children is a far more serious crime than the cover-up of another person's crime against children.

The German Court in Cologne and the Austrian Province of Vorariberge are to be commended for their declaring circumcision—the genital mutilation of children—an act of bodily harm and a criminal act (7 May 2012).

Toby Axelrod in *The Jewish Chronicle Online* (8.19.12) has reported that Chancellor Merkel is furious over the German Court's decision on circumcision, where he stated: *I do not want Germany to*

be the only country in the world where Jews cannot practise their rituals. Otherwise we will become a laughing stock. Jamie Michael, also in *The Jewish Chronicle Online* (7.25.12) reports that the Austrian Province of Vorarlberg has suspended religious circumcision citing the criminal bodily harm caused by circumcision on a Muslim boy that requires legal clarification whether criminal law or religious law prevails.

Orlando Radic, also in *The Jewish Chronicle Online* (7.26.12) noted:

Fears that a court ruling in Germany last month criminalizing religious circumcision would have a knock-on effect across Europe are slowly being realized...Last week, two hospitals in Switzerland, the Zurich University Children's Hospital and the northern St Gall teaching hospital, also announced that they were suspending religious circumcision until further notice...The Conference of European Rabbis (CER) has said that it will lobby European parliaments for specific legislation supporting religious circumcision...CER President Pinchas Goldschmidt said: "We must send out the clearest possible message that campaigners against infant circumcision are themselves threatening the human rights of our children."

What human rights of children are being violated by the child's withholding consent to sexual assault?

The Cologne Court's decision is consistent with International law where circumcision violates Article 5 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which states: *No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;* and Article 37 of the *U.N. CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD*: *(a) No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.* <http://montagunocircpetition.org>; and to the Judicial OPINION of Judge J. Flaherty (1978). "Forceable extraction of living body tissue causes revulsion to the judicial mind."

http://www.violence.de/prescott/letters/McFall_v_Shimp.pdf

Judith Palfrey, M.D., Past President, **American Academy of Pediatrics** was compelled to renounce the *AAP Bioethics Committee's* policy statement on *Ritual Cutting of Female Minors* with the following statement: "**The AAP does not endorse the practice of offering a "clitoral nick". This minimal pinprick is forbidden under federal law...**" (17 May 2010).

http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/125/5/1088.full/reply#pediatrics_el_50189

The equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the US, Constitution extends the protection of PL 104-208 to male children <http://mgmbill.org/usfgmlaw.htm>. The forceable shredding of the foreskin from the glans--a fused biological organ in newborns and young children--is an act of torture <http://www.violence.de/prescott/truthseeker/genpl.html>
http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/125/5/1088.full/reply#pediatrics_el_50189
<http://montagunocircpetition.org>

In contrast, the House of Delegates of the **American Medical Association** *unanimously* passed a disgraceful and unlawful resolution that opposed all legal efforts to ban male circumcision (November 15, 2011- New Orleans). Where were the Delegates from the AAP, which previously rejected a "clitoral nick" as a violation of federal law. A fundamental conflict exists between **The America Medical Association** and **American Academy of Pediatrics**, which call for resolution.
<http://www.violence.de/politics.shtml#GMChildren>
http://www.violence.de/prescott/Genital_Mutilation_of_Children.html

Moses Maimonides in *The Guide of the Perplexed* (circa 1190) stated.

*As regards circumcision, I think that one of its objects is to limit sexual intercourse, and to weaken the organ of generation as far as possible, and thus cause man to be moderate. Some people believe that circumcision is to remove a defect in man's formation; but every one can easily reply: How can products of nature be deficient so as to require external completion, especially as the use of the foreskin to that organ is evident. **This commandment has not been enjoined as a compliment to a deficient physical creation, but as a means for perfecting man's moral shortcomings. The bodily injury caused to that organ is exactly that which is desired; it does not interrupt any vital function, nor does it destroy the power of generation. Circumcision simply counteracts excessive lust; for there is no doubt that circumcision weakens the power of sexual excitement, and sometimes lessens the natural enjoyment; the organ necessarily becomes weak when it loses blood and is deprived of its cover from the beginning. Our Sages say distinctly: It is hard for a woman, with whom an uncircumcised had sexual intercourse, to separate from him. This is, as I believe, the best reason for the commandment concerning circumcision.***
(Part III, Chapter 49, emphasis added).

A case study by David Levy (1945) established that homicidal and suicidal rage was induced by circumcision of a 6.5 year old child: "Psychic Trauma of Operations in Children". *American*

Diseases of Children 69(1): 7-25, which portrays the hidden costs of genital mutilation that affects all of society and not just the child.

<http://www.violence.de/prescott/letters/Levy1945.html>

In America, circumcision and clitoridectomy was the nineteenth century answer to masturbation where the superintendent of the Massachusetts Lunatic Asylum stated in his 1848 annual report that 32 percent of admissions were for "self-pollution" and in 1889 Joseph Jones, M.D. a former president of the Louisiana State Board of Health and a medical professor stated that "hopeless insanity" was one of the many consequences of masturbation and that the child of a masturbator was liable to hereditary insanity (Duffy, 1963, 1989). These medical views on the dangers of masturbation are rooted in ancient Judeo-Christian teachings (Prescott, 1989).

<http://www.violence.de/prescott/truthseeker/genpl.html>

(<http://www.montagunocircpetition.org/>); http://www.violence.de/GM-TS_1989.pdf

The Roman Catholic Church is equally affirmative on the moral dangers of masturbation whose only purpose is sexual pleasure. In the Vatican's "Declaration on Sexual Ethics", published by the **Sacred Congregation For The Doctrine Of The Faith** (December 29, 1975), formerly the **Holy Office of The Inquisition**, the following is stated:

9. The traditional Catholic doctrine that masturbation constitutes a grave moral disorder is often called into doubt or expressly denied today. It is said that psychology and sociology show that it is a normal phenomenon of sexual development, especially among the young.... This opinion is contradictory to the teaching and pastoral practice of the Catholic Church. Whatever the force of certain arguments of a biological and philosophical nature, which have sometimes been used by theologians, in fact both the Magisterium of the Church -- in the course of a constant tradition -- and the moral sense of the faithful have declared without hesitation that masturbation is an intrinsically and seriously disordered act.

<http://www.violence.de/prescott/truthseeker/genpl.html>

Notwithstanding that masturbation, an autoerotic act, is a normative developmental experience that is essential for normal emotional-sexual development which helps *prevent* the aberrant sexual psychopathology that the genital mutilation of children was designed to prevent.

The Roman Catholic Church's attack against women is relentless, as we have experienced this on the shores of America, particularly with regard to contraception and abortion. Attached is a letter from Bishop Leo T. Maher, San Diego to California Assemblywoman Lucy Killea that reflects this hostility to women and errors of theology and biology (15 November 1989):

Since the "pro-choice" stand involves the taking of innocent human life, it only proves how immoral abortion is... The right to life is a fundamental right, and without it, there are no rights.

Bishop Maher ignores the history of *The Inquisition*. An acorn is not an oak tree and a cell, embryo and fetus is not a born child. The tyranny of religious belief and practices must end.

<http://www.violence.de/prescott/truthseeker/acorn.html>
http://www.violence.de/prescott/dvd/Abortion_Rights.pdf
<http://www.violence.de/prescott/letters/maherj.pdf>

Robert F. Drinan, S.J. (2004) in *CAN GOD & CAESAR COEXIST?: Balancing Religious Freedom & International Law* stated: *Some of the rules articulated by the world's major religions, however, continue to subordinate women"...Of course, some practices have been utterly discredited; one could point to the new awareness of and protection against female genital mutilation. (p.135); and*

The Crusades, the Inquisition, and the Holocaust are part of the collective memory of Europe. Also among Europeans' recollections is the syllabus of errors of 1864, when Pope Pius IX condemned the idea that the church should be separated from the state. (p.89); and It is probably going too far to assert that religious freedom trumps all other human rights. Human rights are indivisible and all are equally precious. (p.232).

http://www.violence.de/prescott/letters/BOOK_OF_THE_CENTURY-DRINAN.pdf

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Germany; Chancellor Werner Faymann, Austria and Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, Switzerland are urged to support national and International Law above religious beliefs and practices as the law of the land.

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Biographical Notes

The author received his Doctorate in Experimental Clinical Psychology at McGill University (1964); Health Scientist Administrator, Developmental Behavioral Biology Program, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health (1966-1980); President, Maryland Psychological Association (1971-1972); Recipient of the CINE Golden Eagle Award (1971) for his scientific consultation on the documentary Time Life film Rock-a -Bye Baby that was premiered at the 1970 White House Conference on Children; Recipient of Maryland Psychological Association's *Outstanding Contributions to Psychology Award* (1977); Board of Directors, American Humanist Association (1968-1975); Distinguished Science Address: American Psychiatric Association (1983); *Editor, The Truth Seeker* (1989-1990) and co-Editor with Edd Doerr *Abortion Rights and Fetal 'Personhood'* (1989).

He is semi-retired in Lewes, DE with a focus on these websites: <http://www.violence.de>; <http://montagunocircpetition.org>; <http://tffuture.org/violence> <http://tffuture.org/bonding/articles>, which explores the biocultural origins of the neurointegrative or neurodissociative brain that results in Violent Cultures that have substituted a Disembodied Divine Love for an Embodied Human Love—the Peaceful, Harmonious, Egalitarian Cultures that are the Matrilineal/Matrifocal Cultures of the World where Pleasure not Pain rules.