

Circumcision ruling: European bureaucrats are effectively banning Jewish boys

By [Brendan O'Neill Religion](#) Last updated: October 3rd, 2013 The Telegraph



We all know how ban-happy the EU, the EC and other Brussels- and Strasbourg-based bodies can be. Well, now they have outdone themselves by effectively expressing a desire to ban Jewish boys.

The Council of Europe, that gathering of the high priests of human rights in Strasbourg, has decreed that non-medical circumcision is ["a violation of the physical integrity of children"](#). It has passed a resolution calling on all its member states – [47 nations in total](#) – to "initiate a public debate, including intercultural and interreligious dialogue, aimed at reaching a large consensus on the rights of children to protection against violations of their physical integrity according to human rights standards". Eventually it would like member states to go even further than just having a debate, and to "adopt specific legal provisions to ensure that certain operations and practices will not be carried out before a child is old enough to be consulted".

In a nutshell: let's bring an end to that rotten practice of circumcising newborn boys, who of course can't consent to anything, as Jewish communities are wont to do.

The Council's stated desire for a future ban on circumcision is not legally binding. There won't be an overnight ban on circumcision in Europe. But it is yet another attack from on high on the age-old, harmless and, to some communities, incredibly important practice of removing newborn boys' foreskins.

Last year in Germany a court decreed that non-medical circumcision is a form of ["bodily harm" against boys who are "unable to give their consent"](#). This gave rise to much handwringing newspaper commentary about how backward and wicked circumcision is. Numerous New Atheists have redefined circumcision as "child abuse", "genital mutilation" and even "sexual assault", as if young boys' parents and rabbis get a perverse kick out of removing foreskins. The European chattering classes' intolerant disgust for circumcision was summed up in [a horrible cartoon in a Norwegian newspaper earlier this year](#), showing a child being cut to pieces, drenched in blood, while his mother says: "Abuse? No, it's tradition, an important part of our beliefs." It had ugly echoes of anti-Semitic medieval literature that slammed the ["barbaric and cruel" Jews](#) for being ["merciless... forsekinne-clippers"](#).

What these fashionable loathers of circumcision don't seem to realise is that if you ban circumcision, you ban Jewish boys; you make it impossible for Jewish boys to exist. Circumcision is not some warped ritual that blood-loving Jews get a kick from – it is a central part of their belief system, and has been for thousands of years, emanating from [Genesis itself](#), in which God says: "And ye shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of a covenant betwixt Me and you." That modern-day officials, commentators and religion-bashers would so casually float the idea of banning this ritual, of effectively tearing up the covenant that Jews believe exists between them and God, reveals how cavalier they are about religious freedom, how intolerant of faith they are, how willing they are to stamp over any belief system they don't like or don't understand.

What we are witnessing in the great circumcision scare is the exploitation of so-called children's right as a means of undermining adults' rights, parental rights and fundamentally a community's right to cleave to beliefs and practices it considers to be historically and religiously important. Lawmakers and assorted atheists are turning children into battering rams against religious liberty. I find that infinitely more grotesque than circumcision.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/brendanoneill2/100239551/circumcision-ruling-european-bureaucrats-are-effectively-banning-jewish-boys/>