

StopIGM.org: NGO Oral Statement CEDAW66 Ireland, 13.02.2017

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Thank you, Madame Chair

Intersex Genital Mutilations in Ireland have already been considered by CRC¹ as a “harmful practice”. Personal stories from Ireland prove that IGM causes lifelong severe pain and suffering.

As substantiated in our report², in Ireland all forms of IGM practices persist, advocated and paid for by the public Health Service Executive (HSE), and perpetrated in public university and children's hospitals with impunity, including partial clitoris amputation, “vaginoplasty” and sterilising procedures.

To this day, there is no law in Ireland to protect intersex children from IGM. The Irish Government simply denies this is a human rights issue, but claims, and I quote, “*these decisions are taken on a medical basis*”.³

This Committee⁴ has already considered IGM as a “harmful practice”, referring to the Joint General Recommendation 31. This we're also asking for Ireland.

Thank you.

1 [CRC/C/IRL/CO/3-4, paras 39-40

2 [<http://intersex.shadowreport.org/public/2017-CEDAW-Ireland-NGO-Zwischengeschlecht-Intersex-IGM.pdf>

3 [CRC 71st Session, 14 January 2016, see transcription:<http://stop.genitalmutilation.org/post/Geneva-Ireland-Questioned-over-Intersex-Genital-Mutilations-by-UN-Committee-on-the-Rights-of-the-Child>

4 [CEDAW/C/CHE/CO/4-5 paras 38-39; CEDAW/C/FRA/CO/7-8, paras 17e-f+18e-f; CEDAW/C/NLD/CO/6 paras 21-22, 23-24