

StopIGM.org: NGO Oral Statement CEDAW70 Liechtenstein, 02.07.2018
Daniela Truffer

Thank you, Madame Chair

All typical forms of Intersex Genital Mutilation remain state-sponsored in Liechtenstein, promoted, facilitated and paid for by the State party via the mandatory public health system. To this day, the Government fails to act.

While the actual practice does not take place on Liechtenstein's own territory, the State party instead sends intersex children abroad for IGM to foreign specialised paediatric hospitals under direct contractual obligation to the State party, namely in Switzerland and Austria.

Liechtenstein's official "List of contractual hospitals"^{1 2} in particular includes the Eastern Switzerland Children's University Hospital, where the State party is even a stakeholder,³ the Austrian Innsbruck University Hospital, and the Swiss University Hospital "Insel" – all of them well-known IGM perpetrators.

I can personally attest to parents being pressured to non-urgent genital surgery and scientific research on their intersex baby at the Eastern Switzerland Children's Hospital, that two of my intersex friends were submitted to clitoris amputation and/or castration at the Innsbruck University Hospital, and regarding the "Insel" University Hospital, I have been submitted to IGM practices there myself. Our NGO Report⁴ presents evidence of ongoing IGM practices to this day. Since 2015, this Committee, CRC, CAT and CCPR already criticised the ongoing practice in Switzerland,⁵ as did CAT for Austria.⁶

Liechtenstein is thus a striking example of extraterritorial violations connected with IGM practices, which CRC already highlighted in the case of New Zealand and Australia.⁷

We therefore respectfully ask the Committee to raise IGM and extraterritorial violations with Liechtenstein, referring to art. 5(a) and the CEDAW-CRC Joint General Recommendation on harmful practices.

Thank you.

¹ <https://www.llv.li/files/ag/Spitalliste%20FL%202014%20Akutsomatik%20CH%20und%20FL.pdf>

² https://www.llv.li/files/ag/il-pdf-llv-ag-vertragsspitaeler_30.09.2011.pdf

³ <https://www.kispig.ch/de/ueber-das-kispi/portrait/stiftung>

⁴ <http://intersex.shadowreport.org/public/2018-CEDAW-Liechtenstein-NGO-Intersex-StopIGM.pdf>

⁵ CEDAW/C/CHE/CO/4-5, paras 24-25, 38-39; CRC/C/CHE/CO/2-4, paras 42-43; CAT/C/CHE/CO/7, para 20; CCPR/C/CHE/CO/4, paras 24-25

⁶ CAT/C/AUT/CO/6, paras 44-45

⁷ https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CRC/Shared%20Documents/NZL/INT_CRC_AIS_NZL_25497_E.pdf

See also 2018 CEDAW Intersex NGO Report for New Zealand, particularly p. 10-13,

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fNGO%2fNZL%2f31462&Lang=en