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NGO Oral Statement CAT61 Ireland, 26.07.2017
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I'm an Irish intersex person. As a child I had surgery on my groin and scrotum, where I still have scars.

At 18 I was pressured to consent to a mastectomy, without having been fully informed.

In comparison to many of my peers, I still consider myself lucky, I can still enjoy sex and don't have recurring pain.

Intersex children are subjected to involuntary, unnecessary genital surgeries and other procedures that would be considered inhumane on other children.

In Ireland, Intersex Genital Mutilations continue to be advocated and paid for by the public Health Service Executive (HSE).¹

Paediatricians publicly admit to performing involuntary surgeries, or sending children to England.²

This Committee³ has repeatedly considered such acts as ill-treatment in health-care settings, as did the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture⁴ and the Special Rapporteur on Torture.⁵

Ireland has already been recommended by CRC⁶ to prevent non-consensual unnecessary treatments on intersex children, and to adopt legal provisions in order to provide redress.

The State party fails to do so.

We therefore respectfully ask the Committee to raise this issue and to sternly remind Ireland of its obligations under the Convention articles 2, 6, 10, and 14, and General Comments No. 2 and 3.

Thank you.

1 2017 CAT Ireland NGO Report, p. 8-10, <http://intersex.shadowreport.org/public/2017-CAT-Ireland-NGO-Zwischengeschlecht-Intersex-IGM.pdf>

2 Irish Examiner, "What happens when a child is born intersex in Ireland?", 04.11.2016, Cover story, p. 7-9

3 CAT/C/DEU/CO/5, para 20; CAT/C/CHE/CO/7, para 20, CAT/C/AUT/CO/6, paras 44-45; CAT/C/DNK/CO/6-7, paras 42-43; CAT/C/CHN-HKG/CO/4-5, paras 28-29; CAT/C/FRA/CO/7, paras 32-33

4 End violence and harmful medical practices on intersex children and adults, UN and regional experts urge, 24.10.2016, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20739&LangID=E>

5 Ibid.; A/HRC/22/53, 01.02.2013, paras 77, 76

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