

StopIGM.org / OII Germany
NGO Oral Statement CEDAW66 Germany, 20.02.2017
Claudia Kasper

Thank you, Madame Chair

I'm a German intersex person and an IGM survivor. As a child I had trouble sitting down because it hurt between my legs. As a teenager I was forced to take hormones, causing chronic inflammation of my genital and foul-smelling discharge.

I never had a sexual relationship. I never had access to my medical record.
I never had a chance to justice. Many of my peers have it even worse.

As shown in our reports,¹ in Germany all forms of Intersex Genital Mutilation persist, paid for by the state, including selective abortion, prenatal therapy and denial of needed health care.

New studies² prove the number of genital surgeries and sterilising procedures did not decrease, with partial clitoris amputations most common on children under one year.

IGM in Germany has already been considered by CAT and CRPD as “ill-treatment”, urging the State party to “adopt legal provisions in order to provide redress to the victims”.³

Also this Committee⁴ already considered IGM as a “harmful practice”, referring to the CEDAW-CRC Joint general recommendation 31.

For more than 20 years⁵ all the government does is talk and talk. As intersex persons and IGM survivors we finally want to see actions, including on prohibition under criminal law, access to redress and justice, and abolition of statutes of limitations.

Thank you for listening.

¹ StopIGM.org (for the session): <http://intersex.shadowreport.org/public/2017-CEDAW-Germany-NGO-Zwischengeschlecht-Intersex-IGM.pdf>

OII Germany (for the session): http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/DEU/INT_CEDAW_NGO_DEU_26315_E.pdf

StopIGM.org (for PSWG): <http://intersex.shadowreport.org/public/2016-CEDAW-Germany-NGO-Zwischengeschlecht-Intersex-IGM.pdf>

StopIGM.org (oral statement PSWG): <http://intersex.shadowreport.org/public/PSWG-CEDAW66-Germany-NGO-Statement-StopIGMorg-DTruffer.pdf>

² Ulrike Klöppel: Zur Aktualität kosmetischer Operationen „uneindeutiger“ Genitalien im Kindesalter. ZtG Texte 42: https://www.gender.hu-berlin.de/de/publikationen/gender-bulletins/texte-42/kloepfel-2016_zur-aktualitaet-kosmetischer-genitaloperationen

Anike Krämer (M.A.), Prof. Dr. Katja Sabisch, Dr. med. Jörg Woweries: Varianten der Geschlechtsentwicklung – die Vielfalt der Natur. Kinder- und Jugendarzt. 47. Jg. (2016) Nr. 5/16: <http://www.vlsp.de/files/pdf/kraemer2016.pdf>

³ CAT/C/DEU/CO/5, para 20; CRPD/C/DEU/CO/1, paras 37-38.

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.

⁵ StopIGM.org: NGO Report CRPD Germany 2015, p. 17-19: http://intersex.shadowreport.org/public/2015-CRPD-LoI-Germany_NGO-Report_Zwischengeschlecht_Intersex-IGM.pdf