

S t o p I G M . o r g

Human Rights For Hermaphrodites Too!

presse@zwischenGeschlecht.info

+41 (0)76 398 06 50

A version with sources and the full Concluding Observations is available here:
<https://stopigm.org/un-ccpr-reprimands-portugal-for-intersex-genital-mutilation/>

A year ago, the 128th Session of the **Human Rights Committee (HRCttee)** as the Treaty body monitoring the implementation of the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)** was suspended two weeks in due to COVID-19, making **Portugal** the last State Party to be examined for Intersex Genital Mutilation in Geneva.

Based on a thematic intersex NGO report and a briefing to Committee members by *StopIGM.org*, CCPR specifically questioned Portugal on **“genital mutilation [...] practiced on intersex children”** and the **lack of access to justice** in such cases. However, Portugal **non-answered** on **“female genital mutilation”** and **“trans and intersex health”** instead.

As a result, **CCPR has now reprimanded Portugal for IGM practices**, specifically obliging Portugal to **“strengthen the measures to end the performance of irreversible medical acts, especially surgical operations, on intersex children”** and considering the practice as **cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment** falling under the absolute prohibition of **torture** (art. 7 CCPR).

StopIGM.org welcomes this **clear verdict**, marking

- the **50th UN reprimand condemning IGM as a serious violation of non-derogable human rights**
- already the **2nd reprimand for IGM to Portugal**,
- the **23rd UN reprimand for IGM to an EU27 member state**,
- the **5th reprimand for IGM by CCPR**.

Portugal is another self-declared “intersex human rights champion” that, after in 2018 having **adopted legislation** aimed at protecting intersex children from IGM practices, **claims to have abolished** the practice altogether, echoing similar legislation and claims from **Malta**. However, in both states **IGM persists with impunity**, and accordingly in 2019 **both Malta and Portugal have been reprimanded** by the UN Committee on the

Rights of the Child (CRC) condemning IGM as a **“harmful practice”** (just like FGM).

On the blog: The full CCPR Concluding Observations on intersex and IGM, the NGO report that prompted CCPR's investigation, and videos and transcripts of Portugal's denials and excuses during the 128th CCPR Session.

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StopIGM.org demands the prohibition under criminal law of forced genital surgeries on children and adolescents with variations of reproductive anatomy and "Human Rights for Hermaphrodites too!"

Persons concerned shall later decide for themselves, if they want surgeries or not, and if yes, which ones. The statute of limitation must be adapted in such a way that adult IGM survivors can sue.

Kind regards

Daniela "Nella" Truffer, Markus Bauer
Founding members human rights NGO StopIGM.org /
Zwischengeschlecht.org

Mobile +41 (0) 76 398 06 50

Mobile +41 (0) 78 829 12 60

presse@zwischengeschlecht.info

<https://StopIGM.org>

<https://intersex.shadowreport.org>