

National Organization of Circumcision
Information Resource Centers
and
The Padua Working Group on FGM
Department of General Psychology, University of Padua
present

**THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
CIRCUMCISION AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

*An Anthropological, Medical, Legal,
and Ethical Analysis*



2 - 4 September 2004

UNIVERSITY OF PADUA, ITALY

SYMPOSIUM FACULTY

- Suzanne Arms**, author, photojournalist, filmmaker, founding member of the Coalition to Improve Maternity Services (CIMS) and the Alliance for Transforming the Lives of Children (aTLC), and founder and director, Birthing the Future. Bayfield, CO, USA.
- Zenas Baer**, JD, practices law in Federal and State Courts in northern Minnesota, concentrating on federal civil rights litigation. Hawley, MN, USA.
- Jeannine Parvati Baker**, MS, director, NOCIRC of Utah – Joseph, co-founder, Six Directions, and author. Joseph, UT, USA.
- Peter J. Ball**, MA, MB, BChir, retired family practitioner, member, NORM-UK, and producer and director, non-surgical foreskin restoration video. Turnbridge Wells, Kent, UK.
- Charles A. Bonner**, JD, civil rights, personal injury, and medical malpractice attorney. Sausalito, CA, USA.
- Lucrezia Catania**, gynecologist, Research Centre for Preventing and Curing Female Genital Mutilation and its Complications. Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, University of Florence, Italy.
- Georganne Chapin**, JD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hudson Health Plan. Tarrytown, NY, USA.
- Anna Laura Comunian**, Professor, Theories and Techniques of Personality Testing and Group Dynamic Theory and Techniques, Department of Psychology, University of Padua; Fellow, American Psychology Association (Division 52); Coordinator of the Laboratory of International and Cross-Cultural Psychology for the personality test adaptation. Padua, Italy.
- Amber Craig**, MS, director, NOCIRC of North Carolina and coordinator, Medicaid Project. Chapel Hill, NC, USA.
- George C. Denniston**, MD, MPH, founder and director, Doctors Opposing Circumcision (D.O.C.) and author. Norland, WA, USA.
- Lara Franco**, graduated in Psychology, Working Group on FGM, University of Padua. Padua, Italy.
- Joy Frempong**, student in musical composition at the Professional Jazz School in Bern, performs jazz and experimental music and teaches contemporary singing in Zurich. Treviso, Italy.
- Noel Gazzano**, PhD program, Department of Anthropology. Florence, Italy.
- John V. Geisheker**, JD, LL.M., Attorney at Law, General Counsel, Doctors Opposing Circumcision, Seattle, WA, USA.
- Leonard B. Glick**, MD (University of Maryland), PhD (University of Pennsylvania), Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA, and author. New Salem, MA, USA.
- Nansi Glick**, MA, is an academic bookseller in New Salem, MA, USA.
- Pia Grassivaro Gallo**, PhD, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Faculty of Psychology, University of Padua, teaches Applied Biology, Human Genetics, and Genetic Anthropology. Since 1988, she has organized Padua's Working Group on FGM, dealing with Africans and African immigrants in Italy. Padua, Italy.
- R. Wayne Griffiths**, MS, MEd, sociologist and educator, co-founder of NORM (National Organization of Restoring Men. Concord, CA, USA.
- Frederick Mansfield Hodges**, DPhil (Oxon), medical historian and author. Berkeley, CA, USA.
- Yngve Hofvander**, MD, pediatrician, Professor, International Child Health, Uppsala University, Sweden, consultant to the Swedish International Development Authority, World Health Organization, and UNICEF. Uppsala, Sweden.
- Abdulcadir Omar Hussen**, gynecologist, Research Centre for Preventing and Curing Female Genital Mutilation and its Complications. Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, University of Florence. Florence, Italy.
- Anna Iordanidou**, graduated in Psychology, Working Group on FGM, University of Padua, Department of Equal Opportunities of the Ministry of Interior (KETHI). Athens, Greece.
- Baba Galleh Jallow**, BA, founding editor and CEO of *The Independent* newspaper in The Republic of the Gambia, Associate for the Africa Program of the Peace Building Unit of the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia, graduate student at Rutgers University. Philadelphia, PA, USA.
- Stella Lineri**, graduated in Psychology, Working Group on FGM, University of Padua. Padua, Italy.
- David J. Llewellyn**, BA, JD, practicing attorney at law representing plaintiffs in wrongful circumcision and other genital injury cases. Atlanta, GA, USA.
- Linda Massie**, BSc, PG/Dip, founder and director, NOCIRC of Northern Ireland. Glengormley, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.
- Marilyn Fayre Milos**, RN, director, National Organization of Circumcision Information Resource Centers (NOCIRC), Coordinator, International Symposia on Genital Integrity. San Anselmo, CA, USA.
- Elizabeth Noble**, PT, founder of the Women's Health Section of the American Physical Therapy Association who always discusses circumcision in the seminars she gives worldwide. Harwich, MA, USA.
- Michel Odent**, MD founder and director, Primal Health Research Centre, author, London, UK.
- Claudia Piccolantonio**, student in medicine at Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt (Main) and of psychology at the University of Padua is now working with Terre de Femmes. Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
- Sara Rashad**, MFA in film production, University of Southern California. Documentary filmmaker. Egypt and Santa Monica, CA, USA.
- Patricia Robinett**, Clinical Hypnotherapist. Eugene, OR, USA.
- Mariagrazia Scalise**, Transcultural Psychiatric Group, "Santa Maria della Pietà." Rome, Italy.
- Petra Schnuell**, student in Ethnology, Sociology, Journalism, and Communication Studies at Georg-August-University Göttingen, since 1996 committed to working with Terre des Femmes. Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
- Steve Scott**, Education Outreach Coordinator of the National Organization of Circumcision Information Resource Centers, director, NOCIRC of Utah. Salt Lake City, UT, USA.
- Leo Sorger**, MD, retired OB-GYN refused to do circumcisions and promotes natural childbirth and breastfeeding. Harwich, MA, USA.
- J. Steven Svoboda**, JD, founder and director, Attorneys for the Rights of the Child (ARC), Berkeley, CA, USA.
- Eleonora Tita**, student in Psychology, Working Group on FGM, University of Padua. Padua, Italy.
- Franco Viviani**, Professor of Anthropology, Department of Natural Sciences, Professor of Psychobiology, Faculty of Psychology, Working Group on FGM, University of Padua. Padua, Italy.
- George L. Williams**, MB, ChB, FRACP, consultant pediatrician and perinatologist, founder, NOCIRC of Australia, author. Sydney, Australia.
- Hugh Young**, BSc, graduated in Zoology, Canterbury University, and has worked as a journalist and radio producer. Pukerua Bay, New Zealand.

PROGRAM

Thursday, 2 September

16:40

Accounts of the Labia Minora Elongation Rite by Baganda Girls (ages 12-16)

– Anna Laura Comunian, Elisabetta Villa, Federica Bicchielli, and Pia Grassivaro Gallo; presented by Laura Comunian

08:30 Registration

09:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks

– Pia Grassivaro Gallo, Franco Viviani, Marilyn Milos

17:00

Psycholinguistic Approaches to Ritual Labia Minora Elongation Among the Baganda Women of Uganda

– Franco Viviani, Elisabetta Villa, and Pia Grassivaro Gallo; presented by Franco Viviani

09:20 Honoring the Diversity and Wisdom of the World's Cultures While Protecting the Rights of All Children Everywhere

– Suzanne Arms

17:20

Deinfibulation in Italy – Lara Franco, Lisa Rivaroli, Elena DiMaro, Franco Viviani, and Pia Grassivaro Gallo; presented by Lara Franco

09:40 The Evolutionary Advantages of Neonatal Rituals

– Michel Odent

10:00 Circumcision as a Memplex

– Hugh Young

17:40

Preliminary Research About the Psycho-Sexual Aspects of the Operation of Deinfibulation

– Saulo Sirigatti, Lucrezia Catania, Sara Simone, Silvia Casale, and Abdulcadir Omar Hussen; presented by Lucrezia Catania

10:20 Discussion

10:45 Break

11:00 At the Roots of Ethnic Female Genital Modifications

– Eleonora Tita and Pia Grassivaro Gallo; presented by Eleonora Tita

18:00

Toward the Suppression of an Initiation Rite: Infibulation

– Mariagrazia Scalise and Antonino Jaria; presented by Mariagrazia Scalise

11:20 History of Male Circumcision in Europe

– Frederick M. Hodges

11:40 Neuroscience, the Emotional Brain, and Male Genital Mutilation

– George L. Williams

18:20

An Alternative Symbolic and Non-invasive Ritual to FGM

– Abdulcadir Omar Hussen, and Lucrezia Catania; presented by Abdulcadir Omar Hussen

12:00 Discussion

12:30 Lunch On Your Own

14:00 The Neuro-Physiological Loss Consequent to Circumcision

– Steve Scott

18:40

Discussion

14:20 FGM, Women's Identity, and the Sense of the Body

– Noel Gazzano

19:00

Dinner on your own

14:40 Foreskin Sensation: A Subjective Review of 500 Men

– Peter J. Ball

Friday, 3 September

15:00 Iatrogenic Damage Awareness Increasing Among Circumcision Survivors

– Jim Bigelow and R. Wayne Griffiths; presented by R. Wayne Griffiths

08:30

Registration

09:00

Because You Are A Girl

– Joy Frempong

15:20 Discussion

09:30

Addressing FGM in Germany: The Work of the Women's Rights Organization *Terre de Femmes*

– Petra Schnuell, Gritt Richter, and Claudia Piccolantonio; presented by Petra Schnuell and Claudia Piccolantonio

15:45 Break

16:00 Survey of the East-African Female Students at the University of Padua

– Stella Lineri, Chiara Rahue, and Pia Grassivaro Gallo; presented by Stella Lineri

09:50

FGM in African Immigrants in Greece

– Anna Iordanidou and Pia Grassivaro Gallo; presented by Anna Iordanidou

16:20 Emigration and Tradition

– Mariagrazia Scalise and Giovanni Hassan; presented by Mariagrazia Scalise

10:10

Impressions of Genital Cutting in Turkey, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and South Africa

– Elizabeth Nobel and Leo Sorger

- 10:30 Discussion
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 **Male Circumcision in Italy** – Franco Viviani, Gianluca Costardi, and Pia Grassivaro Gallo; presented by Franco Viviani
- 11:20 **One Death Too Many: Social Services Must Protect Children at Risk from Genital Mutilation in Ireland** – Linda Massie
- 11:40 **Ending Circumcision by Telling Our Individual Stories** – Patricia Robinett
- 12:00 Discussion
- 12:30 Lunch on Your Own
- 14:00 **Isms and Schisms: Political Correctness and the Search for a Unifying Paradigm for Abolishing Circumcision in the United States** – Georganne Chapin
- 14:20 **Violating the U.S. Constitution** – George C. Denniston
- 14:40 **Government Subsidation Through Medicaid (USA) of Medically Unnecessary, Non-therapeutic Circumcision** – Amber Craig, Dan Bollinger, and J. Steven Svoboda; presented by Amber Craig
- 15:00 **Activism and the Movement for Genuine Gender Equality** – J. Steven Svoboda
- 15:20 Discussion
- 15:45 Break
- 16:00 **Informed Consent Obstacles to Presentation of Claim to a Jury** – Zenas Baer
- 16:20 **Strategies for Litigation** – David J. Llewellyn
- 16:40 **A Step Toward Prohibition: State Regulation of Infant Genital Surgeries** – John V. Geisheker
- 17:00 **Protecting Human Rights from the Trenches of the Courtroom** – Charles A. Bonner
- 17:20 **Legal Panel and Discussion** – Zenas Baer, Charles A. Bonner, Georganne Chapin, John V. Geisheker, David J. Llewellyn, and J. Steven Svoboda; moderated by Peter J. Ball
- 19:00 Dinner on your own

Saturday, 4 September

- 08:30 Registration
- 09:00 **The Life of the Flesh Is in the Blood: The Meaning of Bloodshed in Ritual Circumcision** – Leonard B. Glick
- 09:20 **The Bridegroom of Blood: Circumcision as Blood Sacrifice** – Nansi Glick
- 09:40 **Violations Against Children in the Name of Religion and Tradition: Is There a Way Out?** – Yngve Hofvander
- 10:00 Discussion
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 **Tahara**, an 18-minute video – Sara Rashad
- 11:30 **Dying for My Daughter** – Baba Galleh Jallow
- 12:00 **How to Change Blood Sacrifice Rituals While Honoring the World's Wisdom About Children** – Jeannine Parvati Baker

Speakers confirmed but are subject to change. ~

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CIRCUMCISION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The International Symposium on Circumcision and Human Rights, a special project of the National Organization of Circumcision Information Resource Centers (NOCIRC), provides a forum for discussion about the sexual mutilation of infants and children from historical, anthropological, cultural, religious, social, psychological, medical, ethical, legal, and human rights perspectives. NOCIRC is a non-profit educational organization that provides information about circumcision and protecting the rights of children.

Symposium Organizers: Marilyn Fayre Milos, RN, National Organization of Circumcision Information Resource Centers, Frederick Hodges, DPhil (Oxon), Pia Grassivaro Gallo, PhD, Franco Viviani, PhD, and the Padua Working Group on FGM.

SYMPOSIUM DESCRIPTION

Every year, around the world, 13.3 million boys and 2 million girls have part or all of their external sex organs cut off.

These mutilations are rarely regarded or acknowledged as such in the societies where they are performed.

Even in developed nations, the proponents of male and female sexual mutilation defend these mutilations with dubious scientific studies and manipulated statistics and by appeals to custom and tradition.

Doctors, parents, and politicians have been misled into believing that these mutilations are beneficial, necessary, and harmless.

Internationally respected experts in the fields of medicine, science, politics, law, ethics, sociology, anthropology, history, and religion will present the latest research, documentation, and analysis of this worldwide problem.

SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the symposium, participants will understand the:

- history of sexual mutilation;
- ethical, political, and legal aspects of sexual mutilation;
- best ways to encourage healthcare systems to end funding for unnecessary mutilation;
- need for religious, cultural, and gender sensitivity to the issue of sexual mutilation;
- worldwide campaign to end sexual mutilation;
- historical and contemporary aspects of genital restoration

POST-SYMPOSIUM EVENTS

Banquet Dinner: Saturday evening, time and place to be announced.

Regatta in Venice: Sunday, 5 September 2004.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Education credits are provided by the National Organization of Circumcision Information Resource Centers (NOCIRC), approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Provider Number CEP 10870, for 14.5 contact hours.

LOCATION

University of Padua, Department of Engineering Institute

ACCOMMODATION SUGGESTIONS

Fondazione Gini – La Nave – The Ship Residence
via Portello, 15, Padova (3-5 minutes from symposium)

Mini-flats (room, bathroom, kitchenette)

From 30 euros per person per night (3 night minimum)

(With discounts for people who share flat)

E-mail: gini@unipd.it Fax: +39 049 776 406

Tel: +39 049 827 5047 and +39 049 869 8132

Nicolo Copernico – Student Residence

via Tiepolo, 46, Padova

30 euros/single room with shared bathroom between rooms

E-mail: accommodation@esu.pd.it

(Attention: Ivo Campagnola)

Telephone: +39 049 894 1160

Fax: +39 049 780 0187

Requires 30% deposit credit to:

Account #: n.218000 ABI 1005 – CAB 12101

Bank: Banca Nazionale del Lavoro

For: “Summer Staying”

For other accommodations, ask your travel agent.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Degree _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ County/State _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Registration postmarked by July 31:

\$50/half-day; \$90 full day; \$225/full program.

After July 31, on-site registration only:

\$65/half-day; \$110 full day; \$250/full program.

Please make checks payable to:

NOCIRC, POB 2512, San Anselmo, CA 94979-2512, USA.

Registration fee does not include accommodations.

Cancellation requests must be made in writing and post-marked no later than 15 August 2004.



THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CIRCUMCISION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

University of Padua, Italy

Giotto's *Circumcision of the Baby Jesus* (1303-1305),
Scrovegni's Chapel, Padua, by permission of the
Municipal Office of Culture of the Comune of Padua
– Civic Museum.

NOCIRC
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