

The International Child Logo

The International Child for Genital Autonomy is the logo designed in 1990 for the International Symposia on Circumcision, now the International Symposia on Genital Autonomy and Children's Rights.

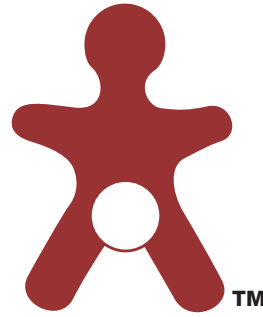
This logo symbolizes the right of all children—girls, boys, and intersex—to choose the form of their own genitals when they are old enough to decide.

Unnecessary genital surgery on babies is said to be cheaper and easier than on adults. All abuse of babies is easier. They are powerless, and history will judge us by how we protect the powerless.

I say let the children decide for themselves—all in good time.

On behalf of the voiceless worldwide, thank you.

Paul Mason, Past Commissioner for Children
Tasmania, Australia
Australasian Institute for Genital Autonomy



International Child
for
Genital Autonomy

GENITAL AUTONOMY - AMERICA

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The GA-America website hosts the:

- GA America Annual Newsletter
- Program & Syllabus of Abstracts of the International Symposia on Genital Autonomy and Children's Rights
- Resources
- And more...

GENITAL AUTONOMY

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AMERICA





Genital Autonomy

My body. My rights. My choice.

Genital Autonomy - America (GA-America) is an educational and advocacy organization working to promote the rights of all infants and children to bodily integrity and genital autonomy without regard to sex, gender, culture, or religion.

Our Vision

A future that recognizes, respects, and advocates for the birthright of all infants and children—male, female, and intersex—to keep their bodies intact.

Our Mission

1. To promote and preserve the health and wellbeing of all infants and children by educating and advocating protection from genital cutting and other violations of their sexual characteristics and development.
2. To promote the rights of all infants and children to bodily integrity and protection from harmful traditional practices by advancing public and professional awareness of the human rights of children and to encourage others to advocate for those same rights.

2012 HELSINKI DECLARATION of the RIGHT TO GENITAL AUTONOMY

Submitted to the 12th International Symposium on Law, Genital Autonomy & Children's Rights Helsinki, Finland, 29 September to 3 October 2012.

Whereas it is the fundamental and inherent right of each human being to security of the person without regard to age, sex, gender, ethnicity, or religion as articulated in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, and the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Now we declare the existence of a fundamental right of each human being a right of genital autonomy, that is the right to:

- personal control of their own genital and reproductive organs; and
- protection from medically unnecessary genital modification and other irreversible reproductive interventions.

We declare that consistent with the right of genital autonomy the only person who may consent to medically unnecessary genital modification and other irreversible reproductive interventions is:

- in the case of a person who is competent to give free and informed consent, being fully informed about the nature, the risks and benefits of the intervention – the person undergoing the intervention; and
- in the case of an incompetent person including a young child – only a properly constituted public authority or tribunal appointed to balance the human rights and the best interests of the person after considering the views of family members, professionals, and an independent advocate for the person.

We recognize the fundamental right of parents and guardians to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Those rights of parents and guardians are not absolute, they are limited by the same fundamental human rights of others, in particular, their children.

We declare that healthy genital and reproductive organs are natural, normal, functional parts of the human body. Governments and healthcare providers have a duty to educate parents and children about non-invasive hygiene, care of genital and reproductive organs, and to explain their anatomical and physiological development and function.

We encourage and support further research into the adverse consequences of such interventions.

We oppose research and experimentation that involve the performance of medically unnecessary modification and other irreversible medical interventions affecting genital and reproductive organs upon non-consenting children and adults.

We call on all governments to acknowledge the right of genital autonomy for every child and adult, that is the right to:

- personal control of their own genital and reproductive organs; and
- protection from medically unnecessary genital modification and other irreversible reproductive interventions.

We call on all States members to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to honor their commitments under that instrument, in particular Articles 2, 12, 14, 19 and 24.

Passed by the General Assembly, October 2012