

# STOP Intersex Genital Mutilations!

**HUMAN  
RIGHTS FOR  
HERM  
APHRODITES  
TOO!**

In Ireland, every week at least one defenceless child born with “atypical genitalia” is irreversibly mutilated in a children’s clinic – e.g. at The National Children’s Hospital, Tallaght, and at Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital, Crumlin. And on Sept 18–20 at The Convention Centre Dublin, the international “**53rd Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE)**” advocates such surgeries, despite the decade-long complaints of adult survivors.

**We won’t tolerate these ongoing genital mutilations in front of our doorsteps any longer!** That’s why we’re protesting peacefully today – against the perpetrators, and against the idleness of politicians and the judiciary in the face of this ongoing crime against humanity. **Persons concerned should be allowed to decide themselves later, if they want surgeries or not – and if yes, which.**

## Lifelong Suffering and Trauma from Cosmetic Genital Surgeries on Intersex Children

One to two in 1,000 children are born with “atypical” or “ambiguous” genitals, a.k.a. Intersex, Hermaphrodites, “Disorders of Sex Development (DSD)”. **At least 90% of these children** are submitted to medically not necessary, irreversible cosmetic genital surgeries, and other invasive interventions. Survivors accuse them as **gross human rights violations** and as **Western Genital Mutilation** – a point of view corroborated again and again by **international experts, multiple UN bodies, and National Ethics Committees.**

Since the 1950s, medically unnecessary “genital corrections” on intersex children are practised systematically. In all this time, the doctors were never able to produce any evidence for the alleged benefits for the children. Until today, they don’t do follow-ups, but insist on continuing to operate on the basis of mere anecdotal evidence.

Until the 1990s, the most common procedures was amputation of “too big” clitorises or “too small” penises – with a psycho-social rationale still used today to justify the more modern “better techniques”. However, survivors and studies still deplore loss of sensation.

For 20 years now, survivors of these surgeries have been protesting them publicly, describing them as “very harmful”, “traumatizing”, “immensely destructive of sexual sensation and of the sense of bodily integrity”, and as comparable to child sexual abuse.

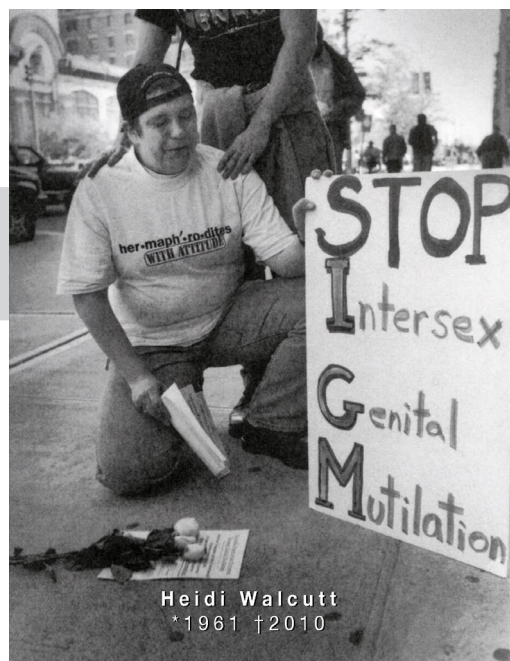
For 20 years now, the doctors have refused to listen to these concerns, but just keep on repeating, “Surgery is better now.”

Until today there has been no reckoning, not even with cosmetic clitoris amputations, nor with any other earlier or current cosmetic procedures.

## UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, 2013 (A/HRC/22/53)

*“Children who are born with atypical sex characteristics are often subject to irreversible sex assignment, involuntary sterilization, involuntary genital normalizing surgery, performed without their informed consent, or that of their parents, ‘in an attempt to fix their sex’, leaving them with permanent, irreversible infertility and causing severe mental suffering.”*

*“These procedures are rarely medically necessary, can cause scarring, loss of sexual sensation, pain, incontinence and lifelong depression and have also been criticized as being unscientific, potentially harmful and contributing to stigma.”*



Heidi Walcutt  
\*1961 †2010

**StopIGM.org**