

StopIGM.org
NGO Oral Statement CEDAW67 Italy, 03.07.2017
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Thank you, Madame Chair

When I was born in 1960, I looked like a girl, but after a year my mother noticed I had atypical genitalia.

Countless exams by different doctors followed. At four they opened my abdomen and found normal testes.

When I was eleven, they removed my testes and cut my clitoris.

Due to the removal of parts of my clitoris and scarring, it's really hard for me to achieve orgasm.

Since 1985 I tried to obtain my medical records, but I was always refused on grounds of "professional secrecy".

Only after my father died, in 2007 I found some documents in his desk, but then it was too late, and statutes of limitations had long expired.

To this day, I still see a psychologist to deal with all this, which I have to pay for out of my own pocket.

As shown in our report,¹ in Italy all forms of Intersex Genital Mutilation persist, paid for by the state.

Doctors openly boast in the media about a large increase in surgeries,² the National DSD Study Group openly advocates the practice,³ and Italian clinics collaborate with European projects promoting involuntary interventions.⁴

These violations have been repeatedly brought to the attention of the State,⁵ and Italy has already been reprimanded by CRPD⁶ for permitting IGM to continue.

Nonetheless, the State party fails to explicitly prohibit by law and adequately sanction or criminalise the practice.

Thank you.

1 2017 CEDAW Italy NGO Report, see Annexe 2, p. 23-28, <http://intersex.shadowreport.org/public/2017-CEDAW-Italy-NGO-Zwischengeschlecht-Intersex-IGM.pdf>

2 *ibid.*, see A.8., p. 13-14

3 Gruppo di Studie It-DSD (2015), "Differenze dello sviluppo del sesso", p. 4, http://www.gruppodistudio-it-dsd.org/diffsvilup/1_introduzione_overview.pdf

4 StopIGM.org (2017), "Open Letter of Concern to 6th I-DSD 2017, DSDnet, eUROGEN, Endo-ERN, DSD-Life and Affiliates", http://stop.genitalmutilation.org/public/Open_Letter_I-DSD_Copenhagen_2017.pdf

5 2017 CEDAW Italy NGO Report, see A.8., p. 13-14

6 CRPD/C/ITA/CO/1, paras 45-46