



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטנים יהודים (ע"ר)  
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS (R.A.)

October 28, 2013

To  
Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland,  
Secretary General  
The Council of Europe

By email

Dear Mr. Jagland,

On behalf of the International Association of Jewish lawyers and Jurists, a recognized NGO at the UN (NY and Geneva) and at the Council of Europe, I wish to refer to the recent resolution adopted by the Council of Europe entitled: "Children's right to physical integrity", that was directed, *inter alia*, against circumcision;

This resolution impacts the right of freedom of religion. This right is recognized universally as a basic human right. We have long acknowledged the right to exercise one's religion, and modern democracies direct that it must be respected by society, and should not be infringed upon by any government, person or entity. This right may also be construed as freedom of expression. It is one of the most fundamental rights men have

Circumcision in the Jewish community is an ancient practice involving male infants at 8 days after birth unless delayed for health reasons. It is performed by experts trained and certified.

At a recent conference of our association held in Lausanne entitled: *Religion in a Multicultural Society*, the right to execute one's religion was addressed by several speakers. The final product of this conference is the enclosed resolution.

We ask that the Council will respect this resolution for the reasons listed above.

Sincerely,

Adv. Irit Kohn  
President