

Annual Report 2024



Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund

EIN 88-3207129

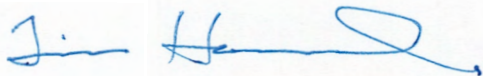
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Message from the Executive Director

As 2024 was nearing a close, I reflected back on a year of unprecedented growth for the Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund (GALDEF), as well as for the genital autonomy movement as a whole.

*With the opening of a new year, I join the members of our Board of Directors and our Advisory Council in a rededication to the reform of discriminatory laws that ignore the bodily integrity of some children or place the bodily integrity of one sex above others. We must remember that **Circumcision is not Healthcare**, and that **Bodily Integrity is a Basic Human Right**. All at-risk children, regardless of sex, race or religion, should be protected from harmful genital mutilation practices.*

In this, our first Annual Report to our supporters, I'm pleased to share these reflections, listed in alphabetical order, that highlight our most notable achievements in building the organization and enabling us to finance the kind of impact litigation that advances children's rights to decide for themselves how much of their genitals they get to keep.



Tim Hammond
Executive Director
January 2025

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Message from the Executive Director..... | 1 |
| Table of Contents..... | 2 |
| Advisory Council Expanded..... | 3 |
| Alliances..... | 3 |
| Attorney Outreach..... | 4 |
| Equal Protection Lawsuit..... | 5 |
| Financial Report..... | 6 |
| Fundraising..... | 6 |
| Grants..... | 7 |
| Landmark Journal Article..... | 7 |
| Marketing..... | 8 |
| New Hampshire Legislative Testimony..... | 9 |
| News/Blog Reorganization..... | 10 |
| Outreach..... | 10 |
| Retrospective Film Series..... | 17 |
| You Tube Channel..... | 18 |
| Looking Ahead to 2025..... | 18 |

Appendix

| | |
|---|----|
| A. Annual Financial Report 2024 | 19 |
| B. Hammond letter to Lurie Children’s Hospital..... | 20 |

ADVISORY COUNCIL EXPANDED

In the summer of 2024, GALDEF was fortunate to welcome two new members to its [Advisory Council](#). Alliana Arshad is the founder of the Genital Autonomy Collective, a network of advocacy and support groups based in Portland, Oregon that focuses on the intersection of violated genital autonomy and marginalized identities, especially trans, intersex, and gender-diverse identities.

Perry (they/them) is an applied and translational sensory scientist and advocate for gender and genital autonomy who became an activist and (self-) advocate for bodily integrity and genital autonomy as a teenager, seeking to elevate conversations among clinicians and researchers that understand children as the primary meaning-makers of their own bodies and primary authors of their life stories. Perry is gender nonbinary and a foreskin restorer.

GALDEF has long believed that many intersex and transgender persons born in the U.S. who are assigned male at birth and routinely have their bodily integrity and genital autonomy violated by penile circumcision customs. Their voices are an important addition to the growing number of endosex/cisgender males who are stepping forward as circumcision sufferers and/or foreskin restorers.

ALLIANCES

Intact Global

Throughout most of 2024, [as in 2023](#), Tim worked closely with Eric Clopper to advise him and contribute to the success of his equal protection litigation. Last summer Tim joined Eric and Intact Global's treasurer (Joe McCormack) to record a [video](#) explaining to the public the similarities and differences between GALDEF and Intact Global. We view the two organizations as critical partners, not competitors, in meeting the challenges of pursuing pro-genital autonomy litigation. To demonstrate that belief, GALDEF pledged \$10,000 to Intact Global's initial equal protection litigation effort.

World Association for Sexual Health

Supporters may recall that Tim was invited to present the findings from his published survey of almost 1,800 foreskin restorers at the [26th Congress](#) of the

World Association for Sexual Health (WAS) in Antalya, Turkey. After his [presentation](#), WAS president Dr. Elna Rudolph invited GALDEF to join the association and in October 2024 GALDEF formally applied for membership. Over the past decade, WAS has published three declarations that stress the importance of bodily integrity and autonomy in gender-neutral terms: [Declaration on Sexual Rights](#) (2014), [Declaration on Sexual Pleasure](#) (2021), and [Declaration on Sexual Justice](#) (2023). WAS is becoming increasingly influential with the World Health Organization (WHO) and is well-positioned to elevate the issue of children’s genital autonomy and consent within that global organization.

Also at the invitation of President Rudolph, GALDEF was requested to produce a video learning module for member clinicians about the long-term adverse impacts of male genital cutting customs. Along with Steve Scott of Genital Autonomy Utah and David Smith of 15 Square/U.K., we prepared a 77-minute three part video series consisting of a review of preputial anatomy and physiology; the long-term adverse physical, sexual, emotional/psychological, and self-esteem consequences of nontherapeutic, nonconsensual circumcision of children assigned male at birth; and therapeutic approaches to assisting circumcision sufferers and foreskin restorers. This learning module is available for viewing on GALDEF’s [YouTube](#) channel.

ATTORNEY OUTREACH

We are pleased to report that our [Resources for Attorneys](#) page was completed in 2024. The page contains materials listed and linked under tabs for Published Articles, Books, Videos, Medical Policies, Past Litigation, Abuse Laws, Anti-Trans laws (which often contain exemptions for male circumcision), and Expert Advisors. The two tabs devoted to Articles list and link to materials published from 1984 to the present. Articles are coded for their relevance to Adverse (Harm) Outcomes, Culture/Religion, Ethics, Gender/Equality, History, Law/Constitutional, Medicine, Politics, and Human Rights. Although the articles will be useful to attorneys, we strongly encourage all supporters to make use of this valuable resource for their own education and edification.

EQUAL PROTECTION LAWSUIT

An Equal Protection Lawsuit page was developed on the GALDEF website to explain the constitutional basis for an equal protection challenge to state FGM laws and highlighting the fact that “Circumcision is not healthcare. It’s a custom.” Potential plaintiffs can submit an application to be considered for such lawsuits. Of particular use to activists is the extensive [FAQ section](#) (screenshot below) that answers many of the anticipated questions about such a legal challenge, including questions about whether such challenges are anti-feminist, questions about long-term harm, parental rights, religious freedom, and exploring false equivalencies to other issues like abortion and vaccination. We strongly encourage all supporters to make use of this valuable resource.

The page also includes a funding indicator to show how much we have raised since implementing the page. GALDEF has pledged \$10,000 of those funds to Intact Global’s equal protection challenge. The remainder of the funds are being held in reserve for future circumcision-related lawsuits.

The screenshot shows the GALDEF website's navigation bar with the logo and menu items: HOME, ABOUT, INITIATIVES, GET INVOLVED, MEDIA, and CONTACT. Below the navigation is a blue button labeled 'WAYS TO GIVE'. The main content area displays a list of 12 questions, each with a plus sign on the right side, indicating they can be expanded for more information.

| | |
|---|---|
| Doesn't this action detract from the genital cutting of girls and women? | + |
| Isn't the equal protection lawsuit anti-feminist? | + |
| Isn't FGM more harmful than male genital cutting? | + |
| Why don't you leave the anti-FGM law alone and just pursue a separate law against male genital cutting? | + |
| Unlike FGM, doesn't male circumcision improve hygiene and have medical benefits? | + |
| Isn't circumcision about healthcare? | + |
| Is circumcision about parental rights or religious freedom? | + |
| Don't children have the same rights as adults? | + |
| Is male circumcision like a vaccination? | + |
| Isn't circumcision like the abortion issue, controversial and insolvable? | + |
| Wouldn't a legal victory drive circumcision underground? | + |

FINANCIAL REPORT

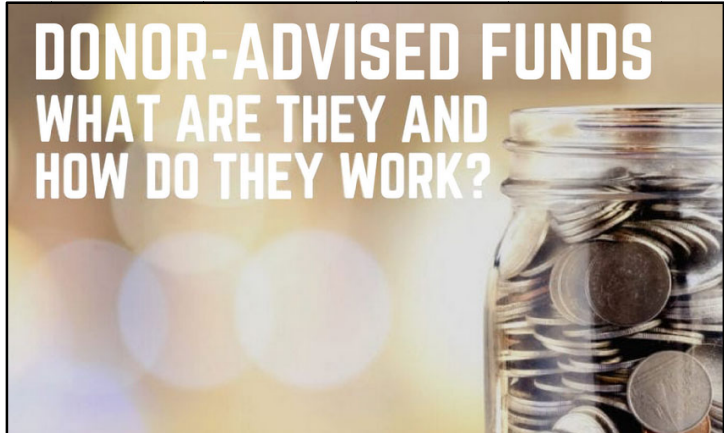
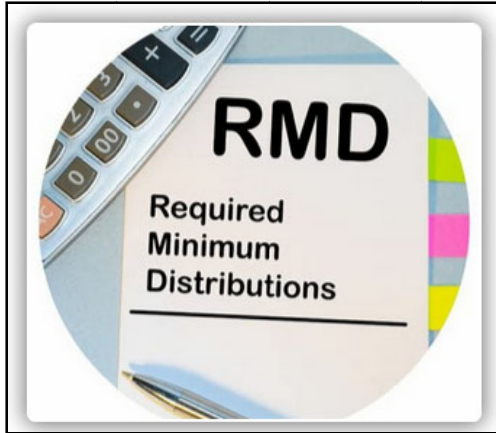
At GALDEF we take our stewardship of your donated funds seriously and we're dedicated to financial transparency. In the Appendix section of this Annual Report you will find an accounting of our 2024 income and expenses. At the close of the year, I'm pleased to report that, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, our [Year End Matching Gift Appeal](#) raised \$8,323, and as I prepare this Report, our generous donor has matched the first \$5,000 of that amount, bringing the total raised from our Appeal to \$13,323. Pursuant to our policy about segregating donations, 80% of all donations will be transferred to our Litigation Account.

On a related note, we grew our Litigation Account from \$14,753.70 to \$32,396, which includes \$15,500 that's locked into a short-term interest-bearing certificate of deposit (CD). To stay updated on our success, keep an eye on the counter located on our [Equal Protection Lawsuit page](#) to watch how our "litigation warchest" is growing.

Of those funds in the Litigation Account, the sum of \$10,000 has been pledged to support Intact Global's soon-to-be-filed equal protection lawsuit. Since our goals for impact litigation are currently broader than Intact Global's, the remainder of funds in our Litigation Account and any future funds we raise in 2025 will be dedicated to supporting future equal protection lawsuits as well as qualified plaintiffs with impact litigation and their pursuit of justice.

FUNDRAISING

In 2024 GALDEF switched our payment processor to [Zeffy](#) to save on fees. To further diversify the ways that our supporters can show their support for GALDEF, we added information pages on how to use tax efficient [Donor Advised Funds](#) and how to reduce or eliminate capital gains taxes on [Required Minimum Distributions](#) from your IRA or withdrawn profits from [Cryptocurrency, Stocks, ETFs](#) by donating a portion of your withdrawals to GALDEF. As always, we encourage our supporters to continue with their [Employer Matching Gifts](#) or check to see if their employer has a matching gift program.



GALDEF supporters can reduce or even eliminate capital gains on appreciated Cryptocurrency/Stocks/ETFs, Required Minimum Distributions from your IRA and the use of tax efficient Donor Advised Funds.

GRANTS

This year saw GALDEF make its first grant of \$5,000 to a plaintiff who is suing his circumciser and the hospital where he was born. The funds helped this [courageous and appreciative young man](#) to pay for the cost of obtaining hospital records and court documents, as well as the cost of securing expert testimony from a pediatric physician, a urologist and a sex therapist in support of his case. We look to providing funds for additional appropriate plaintiffs, which is why we allocate 80% of all donations to our segregated account for impact litigation.

LANDMARK JOURNAL ARTICLE

As Executive Director, Tim Hammond is proud to have initiated a written response to the announcement in 2020 by a major U.S. hospital that it would cease medically unnecessary “normalizing” surgeries on children born with intersex traits, and has worked closely with ethicist Brian Earp to develop the initial letter into in a landmark article published in 2024 by the American Journal of Bioethics (AJOB).

After Chicago’s Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital [announced](#) the policy change and apologized to the intersex community, Tim sent a letter dated August 26, 2020 to the hospital questioning why it continues to perform medically unnecessary surgeries (aka circumcision) on male newborns. See Appendix. When the hospital failed to respond, Tim wanted to take steps to publicly embarrass the hospital for its double standards. After consulting with ethicist Brian Earp, the two collaborated for the next four years to hold the hospital accountable via a journal

article submitted by the Brussels Collaboration on Bodily Integrity, a network of which Tim is a member, consisting of more than 160 physicians, ethicists, nurse-midwives, public health professionals, legal scholars, human rights advocates, political scientists, anthropologists, psychologists, sexologists, sociologists, philosophers, and feminists from Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas with interdisciplinary or experiential expertise in child genital cutting practices across a wide range of cultural contexts.

The AJOB published the article under the title **Genital Modifications in Prepubescent Minors: When May Clinicians Ethically Proceed?**, which is available [here](#) on the GALDEF website. Below is a portion of the article’s abstract.

“[A]s a matter of justice, inclusivity, and gender equality in medical-ethical policy ...clinicians should not be permitted to perform any nonvoluntary genital cutting or surgery in prepubescent minors, irrespective of the latter’s sex traits or gender assignment. ...[T]he hard-won protections that have been put in place for girls with anatomically normative genitalia, and now increasingly for children with certain intersex traits, will not be secure against objections and countervailing pressures as long as nonvoluntary clitoral reduction surgeries ... “cosmetic” hypospadias surgeries, medically unnecessary removal of internal gonads, and nontherapeutic, nonreligious penile circumcision of newborns continue in healthcare settings unrestricted.”

MARKETING

Café Press restructured its merchandise platform with no advance or post-change notifications, making our online store less user friendly, so we decided to rebuild our store with Zazzle. We now offer a wider selection of GALDEF-branded “merch” with unique designs and messaging. Please visit the [GALDEF Store](#) for items promoting genital autonomy. Thank you for supporting our organization through your purchases.





NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



In January, GALDEF co-founder Mathew Goodwin testified before the New Hampshire House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee about misleading consent forms for newborn circumcision currently being used in hospitals in New Hampshire and northeast regional hospitals. Tim Hammond submitted a fact-filled [written testimony](#) on behalf of GALDEF to the legislature about two proposed

bills; one to require more detailed consent forms to parents considering newborn circumcision, and another to remove state Medicaid funding for medically unnecessary newborn circumcision.

In the testimony, Tim shared detailed findings from his three published surveys about long-term harm from newborn circumcision. A more detailed review of the hearings can be found [here](#) on the GALDEF website. Additional written testimonies were provided by Doctors Opposing Circumcision and Attorneys for the Rights of the Child. A video of the more than three hours of hearings is [here](#).

NEWS/BLOG REORGANIZATION

Thanks to the efforts of our new volunteer Troy, the GALDEF [News section](#) of the website was reorganized to include a sidebar listing our postings by month/year and by category to make it easier for supporters to navigate this portion of our website and to more quickly find postings of interest. Our News section now boasts almost 40 postings on issues relevant to genital autonomy.

OUTREACH

Paid Advertising

Our one quarter page ad in Southern California's [The Fight](#) magazine reached tens of thousands of readers from June to December 2024. Display advertising like this is quite costly, but it serves to expand awareness about children's bodily integrity and introduces the public to the concept of genital autonomy.



Different bodies. Same rights.
Circumcision is not healthcare. It's a custom.

Irreversible genital cutting imposed on healthy boys, girls and intersex children for social conformity is both medically unethical and a human rights abuse. We assist plaintiffs and their attorneys in the fight for children's bodily autonomy to let them decide for themselves how much of their genitals they get to keep. **Join us!**


G A L D E F

Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund
Subscribe. Volunteer. Donate. www.GALDEF.org



GALDEF plans to expand its display advertising to several state bar association magazines and a popular national LGBT news magazine. We aim to inspire attorneys to join our Cooperating Attorneys Network and make use of our website's [Resources for Attorneys](#) section. In 2025 we'll rely heavily on our supporters' generosity to provide funds for this ambitious outreach campaign.

Podcasts

Tim appeared on several podcasts in 2024. During the “[On Boys](#)” parenting podcast (below left) Tim spoke about the important anatomy, functions, development and care of the foreskin that parents should know both before they make any circumcision decision, as well as after they’ve chosen to keep their sons intact.

On the “[Sex Talk Café](#)” podcast (below right) Tim spoke with sex therapist Susan Morgan Taylor about the wide-ranging long-term harms affecting circumcision sufferers.

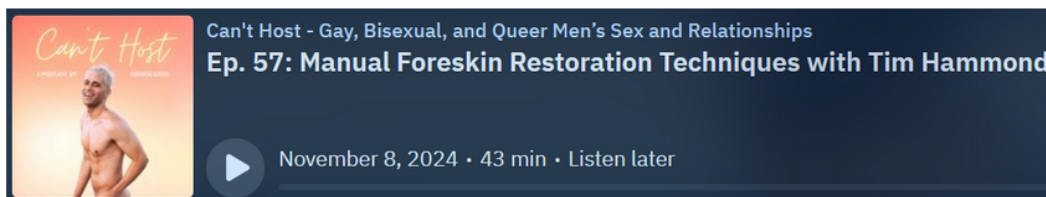


On Boys with Jennifer Fink and Janet Allison



Sex Talk Café with Susan Morgan Taylor

In the Fall, Tim was a guest on George Lizo's Gay, Bisexual and Queer Men's Sex and Relationship audio podcast known as **Can't Host** to discuss the topic of foreskin restoration. Together they explored the motivations behind choosing to regrow your foreskin, discussing both the physical and emotional benefits, as well as offering insights into what the process entails. Whether you're considering restoration for yourself or simply interested in learning more, this episode provides an introduction to reclaiming your body naturally. The podcast is available on [Apple](#), [Spotify](#) and wherever you get your podcasts. You can also listen at this [link](#) or click on the image below.



Pride booths

In 2024 GALDEF staffed information booths at Pride festivities in [Los Angeles](#), CA (June 9), [Portland](#), Oregon (July 20/21), Silicon Valley/San Jose, CA (August 25), and [Palm Springs](#), CA (November 2/3). Costs of registration and insurance for the four events approached \$5,000, but the exposure was priceless.

As always, our popular Pride, Transgender and Intersex roses available by donation were popular items that drew visitors to our booth.



L.A. Pride Volunteers (L to R): Tina Kimmel, Che Johnson, attorney Justine Block, Desmond Weisenberg, Tim Hammond, attorney Eric Clopper (not pictured: Brett Rosenberg)



Board member John Adkison, and Advisory Council members Allie and Perry flanking Tim Hammond, cheerfully distributing information to booth visitors.



Our GALDEF-branded tent made its debut November 2 and 3 at Palm Springs Pride.

Printed materials

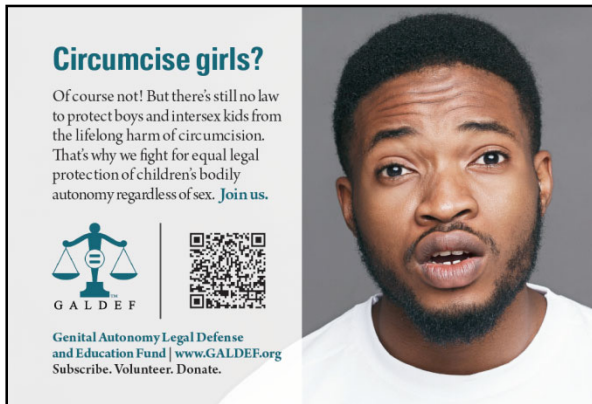
During 2024 we expanded our selection of public education materials. In addition to our double-sided Bodily Autonomy cards (below), we created a new double-sided English/Spanish card to promote gender equality, asking the public if it would be acceptable to “Circumcise girls?”



Front



Back



English side



Spanish side

We also created a new single-sided card patterned after the display ad that we ran for six months in *The Fight* magazine. It carries the bold message that “Circumcision is not healthcare. It’s a custom.”

The headline boldly proclaims “Different bodies. Same rights.” and displays the symbols for female, intersex and male persons.

We stress that normalizing children’s genitals for social conformity is both medically unethical and a human rights abuse.

This message of gender equality resonates well with the public.

Different bodies. Same rights.
Circumcision is not healthcare. It's a custom.

Irreversible genital cutting imposed on healthy boys, girls and intersex children for social conformity is both medically unethical and a human rights abuse. We assist plaintiffs and their attorneys in the fight for children's bodily autonomy to let them decide for themselves how much of their genitals they get to keep. **Join us!**

G A L D E F

Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund
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In addition to our informational cards, we redesigned our popular outreach brochure to the LGBTQIA community. Designed in a single-fold horizontal booklet format, the brochure is titled “Circumcision and the LGBTQIA Community” wherein we ask the critical question: *Who should decide how much of a child’s genitals they get to keep?*

The brochure acknowledges much of the common ground shared by advocates of gay rights and children’s rights and explores numerous important human rights issues that resonate with queer communities.



 **G A L D E F**

 @galdef_official
 @galdef_official
 www.galdef.org
 info@galdef.org

GENDER EQUALITY DEMANDS THAT THE RIGHTS OF ALL CHILDREN BE PROTECTED EQUALLY

Female genital cutting in the US has been outlawed, leaving biological males and intersex children unprotected. If we in the LGBTQIA+ community truly believe in gender equality, we must become advocates for ALL children and promote policies and laws that protect their autonomy. Otherwise, such inequities expose our American cultural chauvinism and hypocrisy.

It's pointless to argue about gender-based competitive suffering. All children deserve an open future that respects their bodies, sexuality and human rights. This goal is logically consistent with the principles of the LGBTQIA+ movement.

AFFIRMING RIGHTS. PROTECTING CHOICE. REDRESSING HARM.

WILL YOU SPEAK UP FOR CHILDREN?

DONATE • VOLUNTEER • SUBSCRIBE

 Scan to visit our website and see how you can help

Who Should Decide How Much of a Child's Genitals They Get to Keep?

CIRCUMCISION & The LGBTQIA+ Community

Back and front covers of brochure



MOST OF THE WORLD DOES NOT PRACTICE CIRCUMCISION BUT IN THE UNITED STATES UP TO 80% OF ADULT MALES BORN BEFORE 1975 WERE CUT AT BIRTH

- In North America, genital cutting customs are imposed on those too young to consent
- Circumcision is extremely painful and medically unnecessary
- Circumcision removes what would become 50% of the penile shaft skin and the only movable part of the penis
- The foreskin is the most densely nerve-laden, erogenous part of the penis, anatomically equivalent to the clitoral foreskin and labia
- Circumcision occurs in societies that oppress women, people of color, LGBTQIA+ people and children
- Circumcision in the US has a racist history and is rooted in anti-sexual beliefs that treat children as chattel
- Forced childhood circumcision violates rights of body ownership, self-determination and control over one's reproductive organs

CIRCUMCISION NEGATIVELY IMPACTS THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

- Most gay/bisexual men, transgender women, and some intersex persons born before 1975 were cut at birth
- The average rate of newborn circumcision in the US is still 50%, with over 1.25 million babies subjected each year to circumcision (often without anesthesia)
- 5-10% of children born today will eventually identify as gay, bisexual, intersex or transgender. Many will resent having been circumcised as a violation of their bodily integrity and autonomy, including some trans women whose penile foreskin could have been used in adult gender-affirming surgery to create a deeper, more sensitive neovagina

CIRCUMCISION IS ANTI-FEMINIST

- The core principles of feminism include respect for the right of every person to control what's done to their body
- Cultural pressures to circumcise intrude on a parent's natural instincts to protect her child from harm
- Defenders of male circumcision, fearing its prohibition, argue that gender equality can be better achieved by legalizing the lesser forms of female circumcision that are equivalent to or less invasive than male circumcision

CIRCUMCISION IS SEXUALLY OPPRESSIVE AND VIOLATES CHILDREN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

 **G A L D E F**

Our mission is to support plaintiffs and attorneys to create impact litigation to secure legal protection of the child's right to bodily integrity and to raise the funds necessary to support winnable cases.

Inside pages of brochure

RETROSPECTIVE FILM SERIES

In a follow up to our successful 2023 film screening of the documentary [Cured](#), the organization continued its dedication to empowering intactivists by providing opportunities them to understand the history of the genital autonomy movement through a series of videos that were created on the subject in the 1990s and early 2000s.

In May we screened Tim Hammond’s groundbreaking 1995 documentary “[Whose Body, Whose Rights?](#)” that aired on PBS stations across the U.S. and was inducted into the [American Archive of Public Broadcasting](#). We followed that in August with a double-feature screening of “[Nurses of St. Vincent: Saying No to Circumcision](#)” and “Facing Circumcision: Eight Physicians Tell Their Stories”. In November we screened Eliyahu Ungar-Sargon’s film “[CUT: Slicing Through the Myths of Circumcision](#)” in which one of his interviewees was his father who happens to be a rabbi.

Each of the films were screened as online webinars available to a global audience. The events were followed by post-screening Q&A sessions with the film producers and/or participants. The films also raised funds through ticket sales and donations.

We plan more such film events in 2025, the first of which will be in March with Nigel Hunt’s film “They Cut Babies, Don’t They?” that profiles Canadian activist James Loewen. The film will be accompanied by Loewen’s video short about the history of the early intactivist movement.



*Post video discussion of **CUT: Slicing through the myths of circumcision**.*

Featured (L to R): intactivist pioneer Dan Strandjord, GALDEF board member Alexis Lanzalotta, foreskin restoration pioneer Ron Low, film director Eliyahu Ungar-Sargon, and Tim Hammond.

YOU TUBE CHANNEL

Our You Tube channel grew in 2024, now totaling 16 videos of interviews and information resources useful to intactivists and non-intactivists alike.

Looking Ahead to 2025

As the organization grows, so too do our needs for more funds and more volunteers to assist us as we take on new programs and projects.

Among our planned projects we will create a series of legal videos designed to educate attorneys about the foreskin and circumcision customs, for which they can earn Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits. We also plan a companion series of videos designed to educate those who want to participate in impact litigation by bringing their own legal cases.

We plan to expand our [Cooperating Attorneys Network](#) to engage with attorneys from various areas of practice to explore novel pathways to create impact litigation that changes the legal landscape to favor protecting all children from genital cutting customs.

To assure our growth, we appeal for the following types of volunteers.

Bookkeeper: Experienced person to assist the Treasurer in tracking our monthly income and expenses in a more detailed manner.

Fundraising Assistant: Experienced person to expand and implement creative ways to raise funds for our administrative and outreach costs, website maintenance, insurance, compliance fees, display advertising, festival applications, video production, etc.

Social Media Coordinator: A person with broad experience across many platforms to help increase awareness about GALDEF by making regular postings about our progress.

If you, or someone you know, may be eligible and interested in helping us with the above tasks, please contact us at: admin@galdef.org. Remember, even if you're not in a position to hold your circumciser accountable, you can still help others who can by volunteering and donating so that GALDEF can help others.

APPENDIX A



Annual Financial Report 2024

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

EIN 88-3207129

Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund

Income:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Donations: | \$36,165.93 |
| Interest: | \$616.69 |
| Sales: | \$1,325.00 |
| Gross Income: | \$38,107.61 |

Expenses:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Administration: | \$413.72 |
| Festival Fees: | \$4,127.92 |
| Travel (airfare, car rental/fuel, hotel, misc): | \$260.86 |
| Compliance Fees: | \$310.99 |
| Website Maintenance: | \$318.01 |
| Marketing (Advertising/Outreach/Printing): | \$6,474.16 |
| Donations to Non-Profits: | \$549.91 |
| Grants to Plaintiffs: | \$4,338.99 |
| Total Expenses: | \$16,794.56 |

Net Income:**\$21,313.05**

Amount of Funds from All Years Segregated for Litigation.....\$32,396.00

APPENDIX B

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
225 E. Chicago Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
Attn: Director(s) of the Sex Development Clinic

26 August 2020

Dear Director(s) of the Sex Development Clinic,

I'm writing to commend your hospital and specifically the Clinic for your recent policy of to discontinue performing medically unnecessary and irreversible genital surgeries on intersex children and to inquire about the applicability of this standard to all children.

First, I have a few questions about the intersex policy.

- 1) To the best of your knowledge, is the hospital's new intersex policy based on medically documented harm, on anecdotes from intersex persons who are dissatisfied with their modified genitals, or on the child's lack of choice in an irreversible genital modification, or a combination of these?
- 2) What specific basis (or bases) does the hospital use to justify prioritizing the child's right to bodily autonomy over the parents' perceived right to consent to non-medically indicated surgeries that they earnestly believe to be in their child's best interests?

In addition to the above, I assume that the hospital does not perform irreversible, medically unnecessary genital surgeries on female infants or girls - e.g. clitoral removal, labiectomy, or female foreskin (clitoral hood) removal - particularly those from immigrant communities in which parents believe it's in their daughters' best interests for either health, cultural or social reasons.

Under the above assumption, and with your progressive new intersex policy, this leaves one obvious class of children without protection of their genital integrity and bodily autonomy, namely boys.

From the hospital's website, it's clear that the hospital performs medically unnecessary and irreversible genital modification on male newborns born with anatomically normal genitals (circumcision). As anyone who studies this surgery - including the American Academy of Pediatrics - acknowledges, circumcision is a minority practice in the world that is largely culturally-driven, especially in the U.S. Any alleged medical benefits can be achieved through non-surgical means. In most cases, the motivation for the surgery is ignorance, fear or erroneous beliefs about a normal body part that's considered to be culturally unacceptable or medically dangerous.

As with most intersex surgeries, any purported 'benefits' of newborn male genital cutting are mostly potential, insignificant, and certainly controversial. Growing numbers of these former child patients reach adulthood resenting this violation of their bodies and their right to choose.

I know this first hand as the co-founder of the **National Organization of Restoring Men (NORM)**, a foreskin restoration support group for men circumcised as newborns who are seeking to regain their genital integrity. As an independent researcher having conducted **two published surveys of men** about the long-term adverse physical, sexual, psychological and emotional effects of infant circumcision on their lives (enclosed), I can confidently tell you that there is indeed a sub-group of men circumcised as children who endure these lifelong adverse consequences from a surgery they did not choose, and would not have chosen, had their ultimate autonomy been respected.

Apart from my surveys, researcher **Jennifer Bossio** published a study (enclosed) confirming the existence of this sub-group. She presumes the main grievance to be lack of choice, but didn't examine as I have the more diverse and profound harm documented by this community of men that drives many to seek restoration. This prompts me to ask:

3) Given that the hospital does not perform culturally-based, medically unnecessary genital surgeries on girls and has pledged to eliminate needless genital modification surgeries on intersex children, have you given thought to how the same principles that apply to girls and intersex children should be ethically applied to male children?

For your consideration I enclose the following articles that I respectfully ask you to review:

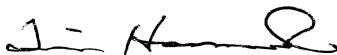
- *Medically Unnecessary Genital Cutting and the Rights of the Child*, a consensus statement authored by the **Brussels Collaboration on Bodily Integrity**, composed of 90+ leading international scholars (American Journal of Bioethics, 2019)
- *Genital Autonomy and Sexual Wellbeing*, authored by Brian D. Earp and Rebecca Steinfeld (Current Sexual Health Reports, 2018)
- *How different are female, male and intersex genital cutting?* a 'popular press' version of the above article authored by Rebecca Steinfeld and Brian D. Earp (The Conversation, 2017)

N.B. - When I told Mr. Earp that I was writing to you he told me to tell you that he is happy to discuss these issues with you and he invites you to contact him at: brian.earp@gmail.com

Also, from a human rights perspective, the 2015 report by the United Nations-reporting **International NGO Council on Violence Against Children**, titled '*Violating Children's Rights: Harmful practices based on tradition, culture, religion or superstition*', reveals that all medically unnecessary genital surgeries on boys, girls and intersex children belong to a long list of harmful practices (pp. 21-22, 26-28, and 35 respectively, enclosed). Full report at: https://archive.crin.org/en/docs/InCo_Report_15Oct.pdf

I sincerely seek answers to these questions and hope you're open to exploring a consistent view of childhood genital surgeries and children's rights at your hospital. I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,



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