

“Bloodstained Men” provocatively protest their circumcisions in D.C. as Genital Integrity Awareness Week marks 20th year

- A growing international movement asserts that all children have a human right to protection from unnecessary genital surgery
- Bloodstained Men will perform on the Capitol West Lawn Saturday March 30 at 1 p.m.
- Genital autonomy activists demonstrate on the Capitol West Lawn March 26 - April 1, will march from the Capitol West Lawn to the White House Saturday March 30 at 2 p.m.

March 28, 2013 (WASHINGTON D.C.) — When passers-by see a crowd of men in bloodstained white coveralls posing on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol this week, they will be witnessing a provocative new tactic in the growing movement to abolish the circumcision of children.

The “Bloodstained Men” protest their circumcisions by performing political theater in white coveralls with bloody crotches symbolizing the genital wounds that were forced upon them in childhood. “Circumcision permanently amputates the most sensitive parts of the penis and diminishes sexual experience for life,” states Bloodstained Man **Jonathon Conte**. “Our bloodstained coveralls force people to face the reality that infant circumcision inflicts permanent physical, psychological and sexual damage upon boys and the men they become. Our mission is to make people understand that infant circumcision is sexual violence, and a serious human-rights violation.”



CIRCUMCISED BOYS, ANGRY MEN: “Bloodstained Men” protest outside the American Academy of Pediatrics national convention in New Orleans, Oct 20 2012. High-res version [here](#).

The Bloodstained Men concept has been embraced by activists on both sides of the Atlantic — see photo of a December 2012 performance in Berlin on next page — and performers come from a wide range of cultural backgrounds, including Jews such as Brooklyn resident **Jonathan Friedman**. “When I was eight days old, a *mohel* (Jewish traditional circumciser) botched my circumcision and then sucked my bleeding penis afterwards,” Friedman states. “I was sexually assaulted and mutilated by my family and religious community, and that is why I will be joining the Bloodstained Men in Washington D.C. on Saturday [March 30].”

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20th Annual Genital Integrity Awareness Week
March 26 - April 1 2013, Washington D.C.

StopInfantCircumcision.org

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Jonathon Conte (Bloodstained Man) anotherjonathon@gmail.com

Jonathan Friedman (Bloodstained Man) 347-687-9390

David Wilson (organizer) 321-243-0178



INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT: Bloodstained Men protest in Berlin, Dec 12 2012. Full photo [here](#).

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The March 30 Bloodstained Men performance is a highlight of a week of demonstrations to mark the 20th Genital Integrity Awareness Week, an annual event where activists from across the USA and around the world converge on the West Lawn of the Capitol to demonstrate for a ban on child circumcision. This year's event also marks the 16th anniversary of the passage of the 1997 Female Genital Mutilation Law (FGM Law), which protects females under the age of 18 from all forms of unnecessary genital surgery. As event organizer **David Wilson** of the Stop Infant Circumcision Society (SIC Society) notes, "the FGM Law currently discriminates against boys by leaving them unprotected. Boys deserve equal protection according to the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment." On Saturday March 30 at 2 p.m., activists will march from the Capitol West Lawn to the White House to demand that the FGM Law be extended to ban the medically-unnecessary genital cutting of all children.

In the 20 years since the debut of Genital Integrity Awareness Week, child circumcision has become more controversial than ever. "Each year our demonstrations will be bigger and bolder," Wilson promises. "Our momentum is building, and we will not stop until all children are protected from the sexual abuse known as 'circumcision'."

Full schedule of Genital Integrity Awareness Week events March 26 - April 1:

<http://stopinfantcircumcision.org/events.html>



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