

# Circumcision Protest Comes To Manchester

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By Jesse Leavenworth

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As drivers honked — in support or opposition, it was hard to tell — men in white pants with red-stained crotches protested on Monday what they say is the pain and lasting harm of circumcision.

“We know we’re having an effect; it’s hard to measure,” Harry Guiremand, spokesman for The Bloodstained Men & Their Friends, said as a male driver, shouting something unintelligible, scooted through the busy crossroads of Buckland Street, Pleasant Valley Road and Buckland Hills Drive.

The surgical removal of skin covering the tip of the penis is removal of “a healthy, valuable body part that belongs to the child,” according to the nonprofit organization ([www.bloodstainedmen.com](http://www.bloodstainedmen.com)).

“It is unnecessary, cruel, damaging, and morally wrong to remove it from a healthy person who is

incapable of consent,” the California-based group’s news release said.

The Manchester session was part of a 21-day protest tour of the Northeast that wraps up in the next three days with stops in Stamford, Newark and Philadelphia. Standing on traffic islands and street corners in the baking heat Monday, the crew waved signs that said, “End Male Genital Mutilation” and “Circumcision Tortures Your Son,” among others.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, according to its website, [www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org), “believes that circumcision has potential medical benefits and advantages, as well as risks.”

“Evaluation of current evidence indicates that the health benefits of newborn male circumcision outweigh the risks and that the procedure’s benefits justify access to this procedure for families who choose it,” the organization’s statement says.

Among the listed benefits were prevention of urinary tract infections, penile cancer and transmission of some sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

However, “existing scientific evidence is not sufficient to recommend routine circumcision,” the AAP statement says. “Therefore, because the

procedure is not essential to a child's current well-being, we recommend that the decision to circumcise is one best made by parents in consultation with their pediatrician, taking into account what is in the best interests of the child, including medical, religious, cultural, and ethnic traditions."



Chris and Kalee Mead of Stafford joined the protest.

Joining the Bloodstained Men Monday was Brian Brown of Ellington, representing Intact Connecticut (<https://bit.ly/2ANPnMy>), which also opposes infant circumcision. Chris and Kalee Mead of Stafford also took part, along with their children. Ten-year-old Annalise Mead held a sign that said, "Equal Rights For Boys."

Kalee Mead said she considers Bloodstained Men a human rights organization. She said she knows men who have been harmed by circumcision, mainly in their inability to enjoy sexual intercourse

as well as their uncircumcised counterparts. As a woman, Mead said, her sex life also has been adversely affected.

“The experience of intercourse is (less satisfying) with a circumcised partner,” she said.

A 2016 study by Population Health Metrics (<https://bit.ly/2OdSYFy>) found that 71.2 percent of men in the U.S. are circumcised, compared with about 38 percent globally. The practice is older than recorded history. In the Bible (Genesis 17: 9-14), God tells Abraham, “This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; every man child among you shall be circumcised.”

The Bloodstained Men, however, cite the U.S. Constitution’s 14th Amendment guaranteeing equal protection of the law to all citizens.

“Despite this,” the group says in its news release, “under the false rubric of preventative medicine, 3,000 baby boys lose their basic human right to an intact body every day in America.”

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