

Within the majority of OSCE participating states intersex genital mutilation takes place on infants.

Intersex is an umbrella term for people who are born with variations in sex characteristics and do not fit the typical biological standards of male or female bodies.

Intersex children are routinely subjected to invasive treatments classified as intersex genital mutilation. Intersex genital mutilation includes but is not limited to, clitoral reduction or amputation, phalloplasties and vaginoplasties in children and infants. Following vaginoplasties parents or medical professionals must perform regular vaginal dilation on the child to prevent the surgically created vagina from atrophying. Victims of this abuse view it as comparable to rape. Teenagers undergoing vaginal dilation have been forced to do so surrounded by medical students. In some OSCE participating states medical professionals still advise parents and intersex individuals to maintain complete secrecy. In some cases, parents are told to lie to their children.

These violations of bodily autonomy and physical integrity routinely lead to a life time of suffering due painful scarring, urethral issues and incontinence. As children grow, scar tissue breaks down facilitating the need for further surgical interventions to repair the damage caused. Post-traumatic stress disorder is extremely high among victims of IGM. Being born with a body that causes others disgust or revulsion is not a justification for this form of torture

The United Nations committee against torture has issued recommendations to multiple countries to cease these practices as they constitute torture, cruel degrading and inhumane treatment. These recommendations have been issued to OSCE member states.