



## Circumcision in the Spotlight A Rights Debate



The High Court in Cologne, Germany, ruled in June of this year that circumcising young boys represents grievous bodily harm. The case centred on a 4-year-old boy whose Muslim parents had him circumcised by a doctor, which led to medical complications. Although both Muslims and Jews circumcise infant boys as a religious practice and many other people do so for health reasons, the Court found that the child’s “fundamental right to bodily integrity” was more important than the parents’ rights. According to the Court, religious freedom “would not be unduly impaired” because the child could later decide whether to have the circumcision.

**Join the panel in a debate of the decision in the New Zealand context:**

- Professor Paul Morris, Professor of Religious Studies, Victoria University of Wellington
- Hugh Young, The Intactivism Pages, [www.circumstitions.com](http://www.circumstitions.com)
- Associate Professor Elisabeth McDonald, Victoria University of Wellington
- Associate Professor Petra Butler, Victoria University of Wellington

**Tuesday, 28 August 2012, 12.30pm**  
Lecture Theatre 3, Old Government Buildings,  
55 Lambton Quay, Wellington

New Zealand Centre for Public Law, Faculty of Law, Victoria University of Wellington  
(RSVPs not required)