

RUSSIA: Mufti of the North Caucasus for circumcision of all Russian women

Interfax Religion (17.08.2016) – <http://bit.ly/2beUGHu> – Chairman of the Coordinating Center of Muslims of the North Caucasus Ismail Berdiyev speaks for women's circumcision.

"It is necessary to make circumcision to all women to reduce lechery, to reduce sexuality," the mufti told an Interfax-Religion correspondent on Wednesday.

He pointed out that the circumcision is practiced in some towns and villages in Dagestan.

According to Berdiyev, Islam does not oblige to make circumcision to women.

"But it is necessary to reduce women's sexuality. And if it is applied to all women, it will be very good. The Almighty created a woman to give birth to children, to bring them up. And it (circumcision – IF) has nothing to do with it. It does not prevent women from birth-giving. But it will reduce lechery," the interviewee of the agency resumed.

Circumcision of women will not solve the problem, spiritual life should be intensified, official of Russia's Jewish community believes

Interfax Religion (18.08.2016) – <http://bit.ly/2c2pvk3> – The Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia official believes that female circumcision will not solve the problem of lechery, but accepts the problem of growing immorality in society.

“On one hand, I understand it (discussion on the topic of women’s circumcision) – *IF*, I mean I understand a person, who reflects how to oppose immorality, lechery in society. Great number of temptations surrounds a believer. They are temptations for a believer, for non-believer it is just reality,” head of the FJCR public relations Boruch Gorin told *Interfax-Religion*.

Thus, he commented on the words of chairman of the Coordinating Center of Muslims of the North Caucasus Ismail Berdiyev, who believes it is necessary to reduce sexuality of the society, and if circumcision is applied to all women, “it will be very good,” as according to the mufti, God created a woman for birth-giving, and circumcision “has nothing to do with it.”

According to Gorin, there are two ways: one way is to try eliminate temptations, the other way is to strengthen your spiritual life, “so that it won’t be a temptation for you.”

“It can compared to alpinism: people are climbing up to the top of the mountain. If the task is to reach the top, you can get there by a helicopter. But people do not want to go there by helicopters. It is not about the aim, it is about efforts. And these attempts legally or in some other way to eliminate temptations, seem to me as this helicopter platform on the top of the mountain. Many totalitarian theocracies try to achieve it, and we see that they do not succeed in it, at a certain stage people start rolling down and die,” Gorin said.

HRWF statement on FGM in response to call for circumcision of women of Mufti of the North Caucasus

HRWF (23.08.2016) The circumcision of women, more commonly referred to as female genital mutilation (FGM), has been condemned and classified as a violation of human rights, as well as a grave health risk, by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) [\(1\)](#), along with countless other NGO's and civil society organization working to end this barbaric phenomenon.

In addition to the health risks, the rationale put forward by Mufti Ismail Berdiyev, that women were put on earth for child-rearing and that they should be mutilated to curb their sexuality, plays into the antiquated and deluded trope of woman as mother/sexual temptress. This has the sole purpose of promulgating the repression women. Women are human beings with the full spectrum of rights that men have, and are not mere objects to be used solely for the procreation of the human race.

There is also no religious basis for FGM and any attempt to justify the act of mutilating a woman's genitals in the name of religion (or any other reason) is unfounded.