

San Fran Circumcision Ban: Cutting Down on Cutting

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Despite all the **demonstrable health benefits** of circumcision, San Francisco **will vote in November** to decide whether or not to ban circumcision in the city, without any sort of religious exemption for Jews and Muslims.

The **JTA Archive's blog** takes **a fascinating look back today** at JTA articles from the 20th century on the topic of circumcision. With a hat-tip to our friends at the JTA, and a reminder regarding the old adage about imitation and flattery, here is our own round-up of a few circumcision-related BJPA holdings, all of them from the past three decades:

- **Circumcision: A Mother's Ambivalence** (Sh'ma, 1982)
- **The Opposition to Circumcision** (Sh'ma, 1982)
- **Circumcision: A Medical View** (Sh'ma, 1982)
- **American Circumcision Practices and Social Reality** (Sociology and Social Research, 1987)
- **Brit Milah: An Inscription of Social Power** (**The Reconstructionist**, 1996)
- **The Day I Cut Off My Sons' Foreskins** (**CLAL On Culture**, 2000)
- **The Future of Foreskins** (**CLAL Jewish Public Forum**, 2002)
- **Jewish Feminist Ritual and Brit Milah** (Sh'ma, 2005)
- Finally, from the **Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs**, a 2009 article about **Jewish-Muslim Relations in Sweden** notes that Jews and Muslims are uniting to protect the right to circumcise their sons, in addition to cooperating on protecting rights to religious slaughter of animals.

Perhaps the real motivation for the San Francisco circumcision ban is precisely to unite the Jewish and Muslim communities in opposition... Or not.