

**Statement on the UPR Pre-session on Denmark  
by Intersex Danmark  
13th February 2026, Geneva.**

Dear UPR and country representatives,  
Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement.

**Presentation of the organization**

**Slide 1 – Presentation of IDK and the Coalition.**

This statement is delivered by Intersex Danmark, as a member of The Danish UPR Coalition of NGO's. Intersex Danmark is a human rights-based, intersex lead, NGO, working for the recognition of the rights of intersex people in Denmark.

We have participated in UPR processes at the national level since 2018.

Intersex Danmark is a member of Organization Intersex International, Europe.

**National consultations for the drafting of the national report**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government's Human Rights Committee led an inter-ministerial consultation, for the development of the National Report.

**Plan of the statement**

**Slide 2 – List of issues.**

This statement, is on the Human Rights on intersex people in Denmark.

**Issue: Intersex Genital Mutilation (IGM)**

During the last review, **The Netherlands** called on Denmark to develop national guidelines, to postpone non-emergency, invasive and irreversible surgery and hormone treatment on infants and children.

Denmark **NOTED** the recommendation.

**Slide 3 – Human Rights bodies calling on Denmark to ban IGM**

Despite repeated condemnation, and the fact that non-consensual treatments and surgeries on intersex children are classified as harmful practice, ill treatment and torture by the United Nations, Physicians in Denmark continue to perform sex “normalizing” treatments and surgeries on intersex children.

These surgeries are often referred to as Intersex Genital Mutilation (IGM)

IGM including Hypospadias repairs, takes place in Denmark at an alarming rate.

Amnesty International, in their 2017 report “First do no Harm” documented that 200+ such surgeries take place in Denmark every year – Most victims are under the age of 2.

## **New developments since the previous review**

### **Slide 4 – Obligation to investigate.**

Denmark has not yet acted on our Human Right obligation to prohibit IGM and Normalizing treatments.

And Denmark never initiated an independent inquiry, into documented cases of IGM, thereby overriding the obligation to investigate, and granting impunity the perpetrators.

## **Recommendations on IGM:**

### **Slide 5- Recommendations on IGM & the obligation to investigate**

We respectfully ask you to consider the following recommendations:

1) Develop and implement a human rights-based legislation that prohibits all forms of treatment and surgery, that affect the sexual anatomy of intersex children, until the individual is mature enough to understand the consequences, participate in decision-making and give their informed consent; except in cases where treatments or surgeries are exclusively aimed at alleviating immediate danger to life.

2) Ensure that surgeries and treatments that do not meet those criteria are offences and under domestic criminal law, equal to Female Genital Mutilation.(FGM)

## **Recommendations on Obligation to investigate:**

1) Immediately initiate an independent investigation into incidents of surgical and other medical treatment of intersex children, carried out without the individuals' full, free and informed consent.

## **Issue: Discrimination based on gender in the Danish health care system.**

### **Slide 6 – Discrimination in the Danish health care system**

During the previous review, **Chile** called upon Denmark to protect the rights of LGBTI persons, especially the bodily integrity of intersex children.

Denmark **SUPPORTED** the recommendation

Adult Intersex people, may need treatments and/or surgeries, to enhance the sex traits they identify with, and suppress those they do not identify with.

Intersex individuals who do not agree with their sex assigned at birth are in Denmark referred to transgender care, where medical staff is not highly specialized in intersex care, and the treatment is not covered by the national treatment guarantee.

## **New developments since the previous review**

Despite the fact that the law on prohibition of discrimination, in 2022 was expanded to include: Variations in sex characteristics and gender identity, discrimination based on gender, still takes place

in medical settings.

### **Slide 7-Recommendations on Discrimination**

#### **Recommendations:**

We suggest the following recommendations:

- 1) Develop human rights-based legislation that ensures that all treatment of intersex people, regardless of gender identity, is carried out by teams highly specialized in intersex care.
- 2) Guarantee all intersex individuals, equal and unhindered access to hormone treatment, and surgeries needed to keep their body healthy, and align their body with their gender identity- If they wish to do so.
- 3) Immediately include gender affirming care, under the treatment guarantee. and allocate resources, to reduce the waiting lists for all gender affirming surgeries to maximum 1 year.

### **Slide 8 on access to redress**

#### **Statutes of limitation in place, actively block access to redress for victims of IGM**

Statutes of limitation in place in Denmark, actively block the access of victims of IGM, to seek and obtain reparation and redress.

As most surgeries and treatments take place in early childhood, and by the time the victim is mature enough, to realize the full extent of harmful consequences they have suffered, the statutes of limitation have long expired, impeding their ability to seek and obtain redress.

#### **New developments since the previous review**

The statutes of limitation, continue to block, the access to redress, for intersex victims of “normalizing” treatments and IGM.

### **Slide 9 Recommendations on access to redress.**

#### **Recommendations:**

We recommend the following:

- 1) Repeal the complaint deadlines, as done in Act No. 140 of 28/02/2018, in all cases of sex normalizing treatments and surgeries, including but not limited to: treatment with Fetal-Dex, Hypospadias repairs, hormonal treatments, and conversion therapy, performed without the individual's prior full free and informed consent
- 2) Simplify the complaint process, including to seek compensation, for intersex victims of all forms

of unnecessary, irreversible gender-normalizing treatment and surgeries as mentioned in recommendation 1.

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