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Bloodstained Men confront circumcision in Providence

By [Steve Ahlquist](#) on *October 3, 2015*

The **Bloodstained Men & Their Friends**, a traveling anti-circumcision protest group, set up outside Providence Place Mall yesterday in concert with **Intact Rhode Island**. Both groups have held protests in the past, but this year report that their message was greeted with more thoughtful consideration and less incoherent invective than in the past.

Circumcision is an issue that confronts Americans mores on sex, childcare, health and religion. It's a hot button issue. The Bloodstained Men, wearing coveralls with a large red stain on their crotches, confront these issues in not so subtle ways. Their signs, such as, "STOP CUTTING BABY PENIS" and "STOP TORTURING BOYS" are jarring and unexpected sights. I've covered the arguments both groups make against circumcision [here](#). I've covered previous "intactivist" protests [here](#) and [here](#).



Mike Ferrara, proudly uncircumcised

Mike Ferrara, a Rhode Island native and contractor working at Gtech came out to briefly join the protest, saying that he was uncircumcised and proud. He offered to “whip it out” and show me, but I declined the offer. “If you’re circumcised you’ve lost a half inch,” said Ferrara.











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**Steve Ahlquist**

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Steve Ahlquist is an award-winning journalist, writer, artist and founding member of the Humanists of Rhode Island, a non-profit group dedicated to reason, compassion, optimism, courage and action. The views expressed are his own and not necessarily those of any organization of which he is a member.

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"We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." - Elie Weisel

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." - Desmond Tutu