

NEWS

Traveling group brings anti-circumcision message to Sioux Falls

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If you drove through the intersection of 41st Street and Louise Avenue Tuesday, you may have seen a few people in shocking suits.

A group wearing all white with a red stain on the pants toted signs that said "Vote no on circumcision" or "honk if you love foreskin."

The group, Bloodstained Men and Their Friends, are traveling the country in hopes of cutting out circumcision in the U.S. The men and women received positive car honks, a few vulgar gestures and even dodged an angry driver at the busiest intersection in the state Tuesday.

They call themselves intactivists.

"We are here to warn parents," said founder Brother K. "American doctors are among the only ones who do this. Circumcision is cruel, destructive, barbaric and unnecessary."

The group of about eight, including two local mothers, posted at the intersection of 41st Street and Louise Avenue for about five hours Tuesday. Sioux Falls was on their list of 17 as part of their "Northern Heartland" tour. The group started about five years ago and this is their first time in the Dakotas. They plan to head to Rapid City Wednesday.

K, who legally changed his name to Brother K in 1986, said people are usually pretty shocked by the uniform, an intended move.

"There's a stain covering where the injury is on my body," he said, referencing the red spot on the pants.

Two Sioux Falls moms joined in the event. Chelsea Pierce said she never quite understood why people circumcised their boys, but wasn't passionate about the subject until she learned she was pregnant with a boy.

"I didn't want to take that choice away from my son," she said.

She said she was surprised at the amount of people waving and smiling as they drove by. Often, she said, when she talks to someone about circumcision, people go on the defense, thinking she's attacking their values or ability as a parent.

"Not at all," she said. "There is just a lot of misinformation out there."