

**Factors That Perpetuate Traditional Male Circumcision (TMC)
among the Ama-Xhosa in the Eastern Cape: In Search of Means
and Ways to Mitigate the Impact of the Practice -
A Human Rights Perspective**

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ABSTRACT Xhosa Traditional Male Circumcision (TMC) known as *ulwaluko* is an ancient practice among the amaXhosa. It is a secretive and a sacred ritual that takes place away from the eyes and glare of the public and is performed for cultural reasons. However, today TMC faces growing protest from the public and carries with it mixed feelings due to high mortality and morbidity. The practice is seen as cultural right on one hand and a violation of human rights of the initiates on the other hand. As such, prohibition of TMC is not a panacea in as much as the respect for human rights and adherence to modernity and civility alone may not yield the expected results in short and medium term, unless there is awareness raising on how best to uphold the practice while protecting the human rights and dignity of the initiates.