

**Doctors, you've
been using
guilt & shame,
secrecy & silence
to control us*
& shut us up.
It isn't working.
You're ruining
our lives.
Don't you think
it's time to stop?
Intersex: We
Deserve Better.**

*Parents of intersex newborns are traditionally warned never to speak to their child of their intersex condition. If asked, they are to deny their child is intersex, deny that medical treatment in infancy ever occurred and explain away hospital visits and scars. Intersex children thus grow up in fear and ignorance of their condition, guilty and ashamed at having transgressed unspoken rules, terrified of seeming different to others, scared that the smallest sign might give them away. Intersex childhoods are thus turned into experiences of the deepest trauma. If intersex children survive into adulthood and manage to sort their lives out, their trauma then becomes a lifetime of post-traumatic stress.