Jewishly Active While Opting Out

A quick guide for non-circumcising Jews who may not realize they're welcome in Jewish communities, or who are looking to get involved.

SHOW UP - YOU MATTER

If you've chosen not to circumcise, or don't feel the practice is beneficial, you can still be involved in all other aspects of Jewish life. Being Jewish is far more than taking part in one ritual.

NOT SURE? ASK!

Have questions about your group's policies regarding circumcision status? Get clarity. You can ask leadership directly, check Bruchim's Inclusion Directory, or let Bruchim ask for you.

HAVE A BRIT SHALOM

If you have a baby boy, celebrate with a brit shalom. You needn't miss out on the excitement, joy, and spiritual significance of welcoming your son into Jewish life. Ask a rabbi to officiate!

READY TO BE "OUT"?

We all have different comfort levels when it comes to being "out" about circumcision. When and if you're comfortable, talk to others. You might be surprised to learn you're not alone.

ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Does your community openly welcome non-circumcising Jews? Have they joined Bruchim's Inclusion Directory? If you're active in your community, consider speaking up to bring change.

LEAD THE WAY

As a proud non-circumcising Jewish person, you're setting an important example that being actively Jewish and sticking to your heartfelt convictions are never incompatible.

RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Debate is part of Jewish culture. It's fine to talk about circumcision, but never OK to body-shame. It's important to keep this in mind regardless of what side of the discussion you're on.

The suggestions in this graphic were devloped by Lisa Braver Moss & Rebecca Wald, and are based on exhibitor materials developed for the 2015 Union for Reform Judaism Biennial.