

## **Definition of Terms associated with Transgender Issues**

### ***Sex***

Biological anatomy – Male or Female

- Designated at birth by visual assessment based upon presumption of reproductive role.

### ***Gender***

Social meaning given to Sex – Masculine or Feminine

- How we learned to interact with society – dress, talk, first names, jobs, etc..

### ***Gender Expression***

External characteristics and behaviors associated with Gender

- Socially Defined
- Usually masculine or feminine but there are variations, combinations and sub categories.

### ***Gender Identity***

Innate deeply felt psychological identification of male or female

- May or may not correspond to assigned sex at birth.

### ***Sexual Orientation***

Preferred term used to refer to an individual's physical and/or emotional attraction relative to their own sex.

### ***Transgender***

An umbrella term referring to a person whose gender identity or gender expression falls outside of stereotypical gender norms.

### ***Cross Dresser***

A person who wears an item or items of clothing or accoutrements considered by society to be more appropriate for the opposite gender.

- Cross Dressers usually do not seek to change their sex.

### ***Transsexual***

Someone who wishes to change their sex from their assigned birth sex

- Surgical procedures may or may not have been preformed or desired

## ***M2F, F2M***

Male to Female Transsexual

- Transwoman

Female to Male Transsexual

- Transman

## ***Transition***

The process through which a person modifies their physical characteristics and/or manner of expression to satisfy the standards for membership in a gender other than the one assigned at birth.

## ***Harry Benjamin Standards of Care***

Professional's consensus regarding the psychiatric, psychological, medical, and surgical management of gender identity disorders.

- HBIGDA – Harry Benjamin International Dysphoria Association

## ***Real Life Trial***

Part of process to satisfy Standards of Care to insure individual can function psychologically in the desired role prior to irreversible genital surgery.

- Previously known as Real Life Test or Real Life Trial

## ***Pre-op, Post-op, Non-op***

Stages in transition relative to surgical status (op short for operative)

- Some transsexuals are not candidates for surgery due to financial or physical condition

## ***Genital Reassignment Surgery(GRS)***

Also known as gender reassignment surgery or SRS (sex reassignment surgery)

- M2F – orchiectomy, penectomy, vaginoplasty, clitoroplasty, and/or labiaplasty
- F2M – hysterectomy, vaginectomy, metoidioplasty, scrotoplasty, urethroplasty, and/or phalloplasty

## ***Other medical procedures***

- Beard removal
- Breast removal or construction/augmentation
- Lipoplasty
- Rhinoplasty
- Facial bone reduction

# Gender Identity and Expression Scales

Sex, Gender and Orientation

- *Sexual orientation* simply describes the sex a person finds attractive in relation to his or her own sex.
- *Sex* is the biologically based presumption of reproductive capability to determine a person's label of "female" or "male". This label, at birth, is usually based on a doctor's visual assessment of a baby's genitalia.
- *Gender* is the social meaning given to sex. Gender includes how we have learned to walk, look, act, dress, what job we choose, what first name we have and so on. For most people, their gender identity is their sex made visible.

These Terms Are Not Necessarily Related to One Another 1

Commonly Accepted Definitions

Sexual Orientation (Romantic/Erotic Response)  
Towards Women ----- Towards Men

Sex (Biological Anatomy)  
Male ----- Female

Gender Expression (External Presentation)  
Masculine ----- Feminine

Gender Identity (Psychological Sense of Self)  
Man ----- Woman

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"Traditional" 3

Commonly Accepted Definitions

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Sex (Biological Anatomy)  
Male ----- Female

Gender Expression (External Presentation)  
Masculine ----- Feminine

Gender Identity (Psychological Sense of Self)  
Man ----- Woman

"Gay" 4

Commonly Accepted Definitions

Sexual Orientation (Romantic/Erotic Response)  
Towards Women ----- Towards Men

Sex (Biological Anatomy)  
Male ----- Female

Gender Expression (External Presentation)  
Masculine ----- Feminine

Gender Identity (Psychological Sense of Self)  
Man ----- Woman

"Lesbian" 5

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Sexual Orientation (Romantic/Erotic Response)  
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Sex (Biological Anatomy)  
Male ----- Female

Gender Expression (External Presentation)  
Masculine ----- Feminine

Gender Identity (Psychological Sense of Self)  
Man ----- Woman

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# Gender Identity and Expression Scales

