



# Women's Declaration International

Women's Declaration International (WDI) is an international, politically nonpartisan group of volunteer women dedicated to protecting women's sex-based rights. [WDI USA](#) is its US chapter. Our aim is to advance the [Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights](#) (the Declaration) before government bodies and to urge governments at all levels to maintain language protecting women and girls on the basis of sex rather than on "gender" or "gender identity."

Article 1 of the Declaration reaffirms that the rights of women are based on the category of sex. It states as follows:

States should maintain the centrality of the category of sex, and not 'gender identity,' in relation to women's and girls' right to be free from discrimination.

Quoting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, it goes on to state as follows:

States shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

It goes on to state that this should include the retention in law, policies and practice, of the category of woman to mean adult human female, the category of lesbian to mean an adult human female whose sexual orientation is towards other adult human females, and the exclusion of men who claim to have a female 'gender identity' from these categories.

Article 9 of the Declaration reaffirms the need for the protection of the rights of the child. Citing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Declaration provides that the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration in all legislation concerning children. It states:

States should recognize that medical interventions aimed at the 'gender reassignment' of children by the use of puberty suppressing drugs, cross-sex hormones and surgery do not serve the best interests of children. Children are not developmentally competent to give full, free and informed consent to such medical interventions, which carry a high risk

of long-term adverse consequences to the physical and psychological health of the child, and which may result in permanent adverse consequences, such as sterility. States should prohibit the use of such medical interventions upon children.

While we would like to lend our support to bills that prohibit so-called “gender reassignment”, language that inadvertently uses the language of “gender identity” ideology undermines the logic of such bills, and is inconsistent with the Declaration. Furthermore, a definition of “gender” that includes the “psychological . . . aspects of being male or female . . . “ is at odds with our understanding of “gender” as learned submissive behaviors culturally taught and forced on women and girls. To describe coerced behaviors and presentations as psychological aspects of one’s sex is to imply that they are innate and natural. This is inaccurate; there is nothing innate or natural about so-called femininity, which should be apparent from the many women and girls who do not conform to the feminine sex stereotypes. For legislation to enshrine femininity – a set of socially regressive stereotypes forced on females – into law as innate or natural to women would constitute unjust sex discrimination.

Similarly, a definition of “gender transition” that includes phrases such as “living as a gender that corresponds to his or her biological sex” likewise presumes that females are naturally or innately feminine, and is likewise discriminatory. To illustrate, what does “living as a gender” mean? People live in their sexed bodies. To live as a woman means to live in a woman’s body. No man can live in a woman’s body, because his body is immutably male. Conversely, every woman lives as a woman, because every woman has a woman’s body. Every woman lives as a woman regardless of the length of her hair, regardless of her fashion choices, regardless of her degree of submissiveness, regardless of her sexual orientation. Legislation must not enshrine coerced, regressive sex-role stereotypes into law.

We have attached a Model Bill to prohibit procedures intended to disguise the sex of children. We believe it would accomplish the intended purpose of safeguarding children against these harmful practices, while also being consistent with the sex-based rights of women to be free of harmful sex-role stereotypes. WDI USA would strongly support such bills.

Sincerely,

WDI USA Board of Directors

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