

## Sexual and Reproductive Rights – Glossary of terms

<p><b>1. Reproductive rights</b></p>	<p>a. Reproductive rights are the rights individuals have to decide freely the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so and to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health, free of discrimination, coercion and violence. These rights relate to issues such as access to reproductive health services and information, safe motherhood, prevention of unwanted pregnancy, and freedom from forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization or use of contraceptives, and forced abortion.</p> <p>Reproductive rights are closely related to, but distinct from, sexual rights, given that many expressions of sexuality are not reproductive in character and not all human reproduction is linked to the expression of sexuality.</p>
<p><b>2. Sexual rights</b></p>	<p>b. Sexual rights are human rights that are already recognized in international human rights standards and national laws. They include the right of all people, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the highest attainable standard of sexual health, including access to sexual and reproductive health care services</li> <li>• seek, receive and impart information related to sexuality</li> <li>• sexuality education</li> <li>• respect for bodily integrity</li> <li>• choose their partner</li> <li>• decide to be sexually active or not</li> <li>• consensual sexual relations</li> <li>• consensual marriage</li> <li>• decide whether or not, and when, to have children</li> <li>• pursue a satisfying, safe and pleasurable sexual life.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Discrimination</b></p>	<p>c. Discrimination occurs when a person is unable to enjoy his or her human rights or other legal rights on an equal basis with others because of an unjustified distinction made in policy, law, or treatment based on any of the prohibited grounds. The prohibited grounds include: race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). There are two forms of discrimination – direct discrimination and indirect discrimination.</p> <p>Direct discrimination is when an explicit distinction is made between groups of people that results in individuals from some groups being less able than others to exercise their rights. For example, a law that requires women, and not men, to provide proof of a certain level of education as a prerequisite for voting would constitute direct discrimination on the grounds of sex.</p> <p>Indirect discrimination is when a law, policy, or treatment is presented in neutral terms (that is, no explicit distinctions are made) but it disproportionately disadvantages a specific group or groups. For example, a law that requires everyone to provide proof of a</p>

	<p>certain level of education as a prerequisite for voting has an indirectly discriminatory effect on any group that is less likely to have proof of education to that level (such as disadvantaged ethnic or other social groups or women).</p> <p>Intersectional discrimination (or multiple discrimination) is discrimination on a combination of grounds that combine to produce disadvantages distinct from any one ground of discrimination standing alone. For example discrimination against women frequently means that they are paid less than men for the same work. Discrimination against an ethnic minority often results in members of that group being paid less others for the same work. Where women from a minority group are paid less than majority women and minority men they are suffering from intersectional discrimination on the ground of their sex and ethnicity.</p> <p>Female genital mutilation (also referred to as female genital cutting). Any procedure involving the partial or total removal of the external female genital organs or injury to these. Such procedures are usually carried out for cultural reasons.</p>
<b>4. Gender and sexuality</b>	d. It is also important to note that gender identities, sexual orientations and the intersections thereof vary across different cultures and through time, and that an individual's gender identity and sexual orientation is not necessarily invariable throughout their lifetime. In addition, the terms listed below are by and large Western terms. There are a wide variety of additional terms used to describe transgender or gender variant individuals in other cultures, such as travesti, hijra, fa'afafine.
<b>5. Gender</b>	e. Gender is the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for women and for men. Gender is not a synonym for women or men. Gender is an ideological and cultural concept, not a biologically determined one.
<b>6. Gender identity</b>	f. Refers to each person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with the sex assigned at birth, or with the way they are made to express their gender, including the personal sense of the body (which may involve, if freely chosen, modification of bodily appearance or function by medical, surgical or other means) and other expressions of gender, including dress, speech and mannerisms. An individual's gender identity may be male, female, or a gender which is neither male nor female; it may also be more than one gender, or no gender.
<b>7. Gender expression</b>	g. Refers to the means by which individuals express their gender identity. This may or may not include dress, make-up, speech, mannerisms, surgical or hormonal treatment.
<b>8. Gender reassignment treatment</b>	h. Refers to a range of medical or non-medical treatments which a transgender person may wish to undergo. Treatments may include hormone therapy, sex or gender reassignment surgery including facial surgery, chest surgery, genital or gonad surgery, and can include (voluntary) sterilisation. In some states, some forms of gender reassignment treatment may be compulsory for legal recognition of a change in gender. Not all transgender people feel a need to undergo gender reassignment treatment.
<b>9. Transgender</b>	i. Individuals whose gender expression and/or gender identity differs

<b>people</b>	from conventional expectations based on the physical sex they were assigned at birth.[15] Commonly, a transgender woman is a person who was assigned 'male' at birth but has a female gender identity; a transgender man is a person who was assigned 'female' at birth but has a male gender identity. However, not all transgender individuals identify as male or female; transgender is a term that includes members of third genders, as well as individuals who identify as more than one gender or no gender at all.[16] Transgender individuals may or may not choose to undergo some or all possible forms of gender reassignment treatment.
<b>10. Transphobia</b>	j. The fear of, and/or aversion to, transgender persons. Manifestations of transphobia include discrimination, criminalisation, marginalisation, social exclusion or violence against transgender persons.
<b>11. Trans*</b>	k. A term used by some organisations and individuals as a political open-ended umbrella term to cover the broad spectrum of gender identities that do not conform to norms of masculinity and femininity.
<b>12. Transvestite (cross-dresser)</b>	l. Describes a person who regularly, but not constantly, wears clothes mostly associated with a gender other than the gender they were assigned at birth.
<b>13. Third gender/sex</b>	m. Refers to any of many socially or culturally acknowledged genders or gender identities that are neither male nor female; examples include <i>mahu</i> and <i>fa'afafine</i> in Polynesia, <i>muxe</i> in Mexico, <i>xanith</i> in Oman, and <i>hijra</i> in India and Pakistan. Some countries, including Nepal and Pakistan, have recognised the existence of gender identities that are neither male nor female and issue official documents which reflect this fact.
<b>14. Intersex</b>	n. Individuals who possess genital, chromosomal or hormonal characteristics which do not correspond to the given standard for 'male' or 'female' categories as for sexual or reproductive anatomy. Intersexuality may take different forms and cover a wide range of conditions.
<b>15. Sexual orientation</b>	o. Refers to each person's capacity for profound emotional, affectional and sexual attraction to, and intimate and sexual relations with, individuals of a different gender or the same gender or more than one gender.
<b>16. Homophobia</b>	p. Used to describe fear of, or hostility towards, lesbian women, gay men or bisexual people, or people who are perceived to be lesbian, gay or bisexual.
<b>17. Lesbian</b>	q. Refers to women who are primarily attracted to, and who form relationships and have sexual relations with, other women.
<b>18. Gay</b>	r. Primarily refers to men who are primarily attracted to, and who form relationships and have sexual relations with, other men. Sometimes it is used as a generic term for all people with same-sex attractions but it is preferable that lesbians are not "subsumed" into this category.
<b>19. Bisexual</b>	s. Refers to people who are attracted to, who form relationships and have sexual relations with, both men and women.
<b>20. LGBTI</b>	t. An acronym regularly used to refer to a community including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans* and Intersex people.
<b>21. Men who have sex with men (MSM)</b>	u. Increasingly used to refer to men who do not identify themselves as gay (or the local equivalent), bisexual men and heterosexual men who at times have sex with other men. It is often used within the context of sexual health.

<p><b>22. Women who have sex with women (WSW)</b></p>	<p>v. Increasingly used to refer to women who do not necessarily identify themselves as lesbian, and can include bisexual and heterosexual women who have sex with other women. It is often used within the context of sexual health.</p>
<p><b>23. Gender-based violence</b></p>	<p>w. Violence directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. In other words, not all acts that harm a woman are gender-based. Men can suffer gender-based violence, for example, gay men who are attacked because they do not conform to socially approved views of masculinity. However, most gender-based violence is committed by men, and is directed against women and girls and linked to discrimination.</p> <p>For more information, see UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), General Recommendation 19</p>
<p><b>24. Rape</b></p>	<p>x. Legal definitions vary between different legal systems and evolve over time. While rape has historically been defined as non-consensual sexual intercourse, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court defines it, gender-neutrally, as including coercive acts which involve the insertion of objects or the use of bodily orifices not considered to be intrinsically sexual. The rape of a person in the power or custody of a state agent – for example, a prison official, security or military official – always constitutes torture for which the state is directly responsible.</p> <p>In Amnesty International’s view, rape by private individuals who are not state agents constitutes torture for which the state is responsible if the state has not acted with due diligence to prevent, punish or redress the crime.</p> <p>Where officials are involved in sexual attacks that are not rape, these would constitute either torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, depending on the specific acts and circumstances.</p>
<p><b>25. Violence against women</b></p>	<p>y. The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines violence against women as “Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”. Violence against women includes violence in the family (such as battering, sexual abuse of girls, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation); violence in the community (such as rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment at work, trafficking in women and forced prostitution); and physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the state, wherever it occurs.</p> <p>Amnesty International considers that states are accountable for acts of violence against women in the home or the community if they have failed to exercise due diligence to provide effective protection from such violence.</p>