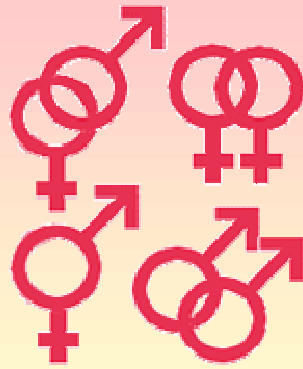


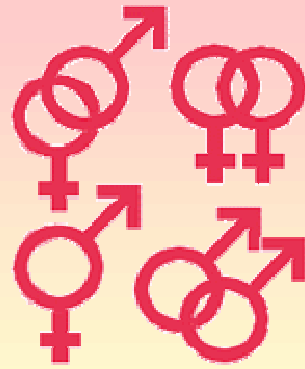
A Hidden A-gender
a perspective on Transsexuality

**Joanna Rowland-
Stuart**



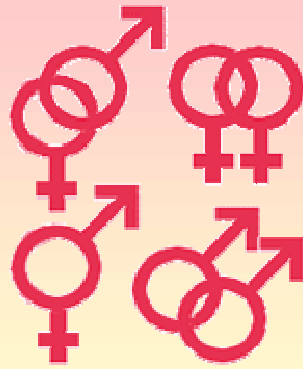
Gender, Sex, and Sexuality Definitions and Differences

- | Gender Polarity – Male/Female? Or is there more? Perceptions of other cultures
 - ∅ Traditional gender roles in Western culture are limited to male and female and gender stereotyping is common. People who attempt to cross gender boundaries meet varying degrees of prejudice.
 - ∅ By comparison the Navajo Indians have 11 words to define gender roles, and it is acceptable to them for a person to live in whatever role they are comfortable with.
 - ∅ Gender roles are also more flexible in Oriental cultures.
 - ∅ Many Western gender perceptions are due to the influence of early patriarchal Judeo-Christian cultures – earlier pagan religions were much more flexible in this respect



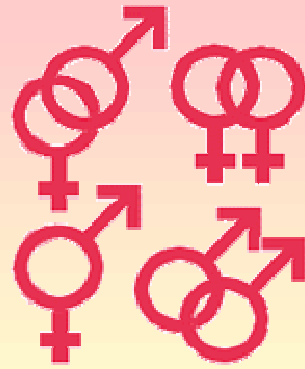
Gender, Sex, and Sexuality Definitions and Differences

- | **Sex – Male, Female and Intersex – what your mothers never told you.**
 - | Children are not simply born one sex or the other, although most are, as many as one in 10,000 children are born with intermediate sex conditions.
 - | Doctors sometimes do not tell the parents at birth, especially if the condition is not obvious.
 - | It is common for infants to undergo “corrective” surgery to make the child one sex or another, sometimes without the knowledge of the parents.
 - | Mistakes can happen, and can lead to trauma and anxiety in later life, especially if the wrong sex has been assigned.



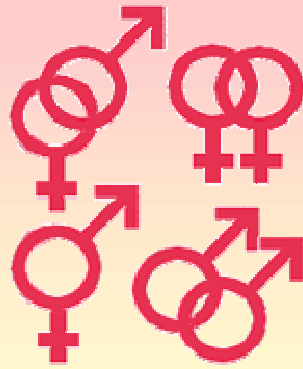
Gender, Sex, and Sexuality Definitions and Differences

- | **Sexuality – Hetero, Homo and Bi – are all TS really gay?**
 - | This is the most common misconception, that somehow gender, physical sex, and sexuality are interrelated.
 - | They are quite separate.
 - | A TS has the same chance to be Straight, Gay or Bisexual as any other person.
 - | A persons Gender Identity is innate – it isn't dependent on their physical sex or their sexual orientation



Perceptions and People exploding the myths

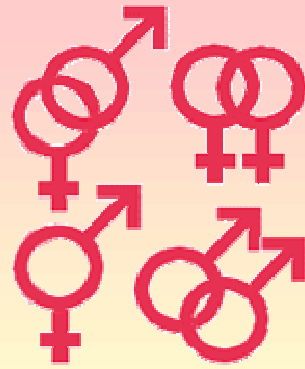
- | My own journey
- | There is no such thing as “the average TS”
- | Misconceptions and Myths



The transgender debate: what is a transsexual?

I Transvestism

- ∅ People may temporarily dress in clothing of the opposite gender role for a variety of reasons:
 - ∅ Fun (parties - about 50% of all males have done this at one time or another)
 - ∅ Fetish - this is invariably related to sexual activity
 - ∅ Freedom - that person feels more comfortable in the "other clothes", may feel less anxiety and be more confident
- ∅ The transvestite only spend a limited amount of time cross-dressed - they always eventually revert to their main gender role.

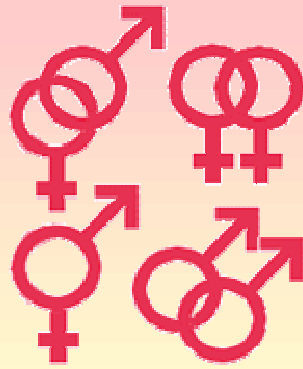


The transgender debate: what is a transsexual?

I Transgenderism

- ∅ A transgenderist is someone who does not feel comfortable living in their birth gender role, or (more rarely) does not see gender roles as relevant, and so lives and dresses in a role that they feel comfortable with. Sometimes they will move back and forth along the spectrum of male to female, but they usually settle down to one role that suits them. This may well not be “traditional male” or “traditional female”.

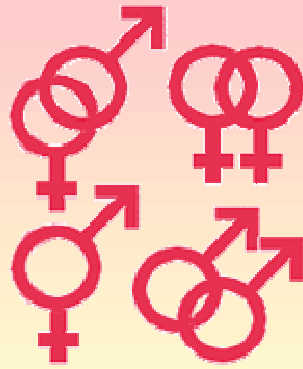
This term is sometimes applied to people with gender identity disorder who do not want to have surgery.



The transgender debate: what is a transsexual?

I Transsexuality

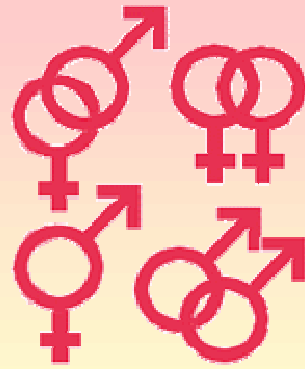
- ∅ A transsexual has Gender Identity Disorder
- ∅ This has recently been confirmed by medical science to be a physical condition originating in the part of the brain that defines gender.
- ∅ It is NOT a mental health issue (as it has been treated as hitherto), with the exception that psychological trauma may have resulted by an individual having to live in a gender role opposite to their true nature.
- ∅ The transsexual feels that they are “in the wrong body” and identifies as the opposite gender from early childhood, although these feelings may not become strong until puberty.



The transgender debate: what is a transsexual?

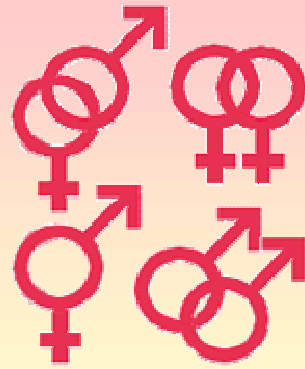
I Treatment

- ∅ Psychiatric Assessment - to confirm there is no underlying complicating psychiatric condition, e.g. schizophrenia.
- ∅ Real Life Test - living (and ideally working) in the new gender role 24/7.
- ∅ Hormone treatment - usually starts after RLT begun - causes psychological and physiological changes. Often used as a diagnostic tool as a transsexual will "feel right" as their body changes.
- ∅ Surgery - usually after 2 years RLT
 - ∅ Genital cosmetic surgery (Sex Reassignment Surgery or SRS).
 - ∅ Facial Surgery
 - ∅ Breast implants/removal



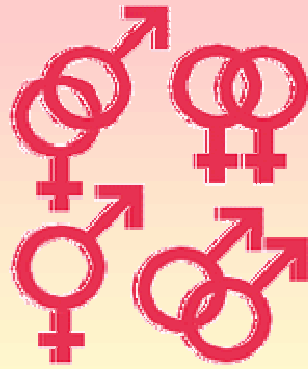
Discrimination and Exclusion: why, who and where?

- | The Law – The Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations 1999
- | The Workplace
- | Society



Acceptance and Inclusion: how can we do it?

- | Role of colleagues
- | Role of advocate
- | Preparing people for change



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Thanks to:

Stuart

- | The Gender Trust (<http://www.gendertrust.org.uk>)
- | The Clare Project (<http://www.clareproject.org.uk>)
- | Persia West (<http://www.aplaceatthetable.co.uk>)