

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN TEACHING ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY

SCIENCE Questions

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<p>Is sex really on a spectrum?</p> <p>Is sex non-binary?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recently, some are contending that differences between individuals in anatomy or chromosomes mean sex is on a spectrum. This is akin to saying that because some people are born without a foot, humans are not bipedal mammals. ➤ Sex is determined by our chromosomes at conception. A very small number of people are born with chromosomal abnormalities or with differences of sexual development (intersex) but that does not create a third sex. When they want to reproduce, everyone knows there are only two sexes and which sex they are. ➤ The idea of non-binary sex confuses binary sex (whether we are male or female) with non-binary gender (the sex role stereotypes we may express). It is <i>gender expression</i> that is on a spectrum, not sex. 	<p>"Sex is not just a label 'assigned at birth', it is a material reality." Maya Forstater BSc. There used to be a word for us...</p> <p>"These regulatory segments of DNA are called enhancers... If these enhancers that control testis genes are disrupted it may lead to a baby being born with a disorder of sex development." University of Melbourne. Geneticists make new discovery about how a baby's sex is determined</p>
<p>What makes a person male or female?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Because sex is in our chromosomes and in every cell of our bodies, no one can change their sex. Transwomen remain males who live as women and transmen remain females who live as men. ➤ Transgender people frequently adopt traditional sex stereotypes in appearance and behaviour to claim an identity. By adopting these stereotypes, regressive and limiting behaviours are being elevated as the marker for a person's sex. Wearing a dress and high heels is claimed to change a male into a woman when many biological females do not choose to dress in that way. 	<p>"It's impossible to 'reassign' someone's sex physically, and attempting to do so doesn't produce good outcomes psychosocially." Ryan T Anderson PhD. Sex Reassignment Doesn't Work. Here Is the Evidence.</p> <p>"But, as many women have said before me, 'woman' is not a costume. 'Woman' is not an idea in a man's head. 'Woman' is not a pink brain, a liking for Jimmy Choos or any of the other sexist ideas now somehow touted as progressive." JK Rowling Writes about Her Reasons for Speaking out on Sex and Gender Issues</p>

<p>Can someone be born in the wrong body?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is impossible to be born in the wrong body. Our chromosomes determine whether a foetus develops a male or female body and the function of the brain is not designated by sex. ➤ Sex is not 'assigned at birth' like a lottery. It is created in the womb in an early part of gestation. ➤ A woman is someone with a female body and any kind of personality; she is not a 'female personality' with any kind of body. 	<p>"Without a female body, there is no equivocating oneself into womanhood. There is no incantation or initiation that can transcend our bodily reality." Amy Eileen Hamm. On feeling like a woman</p> <p>"...teachers should not suggest to a child that their non-compliance with gender stereotypes means that either their personality or their body is wrong and in need of changing..." Department for Education, England https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-your-relationships-sex-and-health-curriculum#using-external-agencies</p> <p>"Transgenderism can only exist if one believes that there are appropriate personalities and behaviours for each sex – otherwise what would be left to 'trans'?" The sexist pseudoscience of 'gender identity' Josephine Bartosch</p>
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HEALTH Questions

<p>Who chooses irreversible medical treatment for children?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Some people claim teenagers and younger children can self-ID as transgender and begin treatment towards changing to the opposite sex. ➤ Before people are sexually mature, they can have no idea of what kind of future sexual relationships they will want. ➤ The human brain is not fully developed until about age 25 and in NZ, at 16, people cannot buy alcohol or in some places, get a tattoo. Yet they can consent to being given puberty blockers and sex hormones. 	<p>"The rush to diagnose and medicalise young people is serving no-one – not least the vulnerable children pushed towards treatment that may only add to their distress." Debbie Hayton (Transwoman) The rush to diagnose trans children serves no-one</p> <p>The Ministry of Health must remove descriptions of puberty blockers as "safe and fully reversible". The Right to be Fully Informed on the Health Impacts of Puberty Blockers</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The long-term effects of puberty blockers have not been determined. Current studies show permanent cognitive impairment and irreversible physical consequences. ➤ Amongst transitioning children, there is a significant and growing over-representation of girls. A large number of those girls are on the autism spectrum, have a mental health diagnosis, or have suffered trauma. 	<p>BREAKING NEWS On 2 December 2020 the high court in the UK ruled children under 16 are not able to give informed consent to taking puberty blockers. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/01/children-who-want-puberty-blockers-must-understand-effects-high-court-rules</p> <p>Close observers see trans as the first identity-politics push native to social media, spreading by “social contagion” through online platforms and school friendship networks — networks that autistic kids are struggling to unlock and enter. Does trans look like a key? Bernard Lane, The Australian. Gender identity caught up on the autism spectrum</p>
<p>Are the statistics supporting transgenderism accurate?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Suicide is overstated and rare amongst transitioners. ➤ Women are in more danger of murder than transwomen. ➤ The number of de-transitioners (people who revert to their birth sex) is increasing. 	<p>“... the oft-quoted suicide statistics are from surveys which are not robust and there is no evidence that transition is a ‘cure.’” Fairplay for Women https://fairplayforwomen.com/suicide/</p> <p>“I believe 7 males who identify as transgender have been killed in the UK since 2012... more than 1,063 women have been killed by men in the same period.” Karen Ingala Smith. Counting Dead Women – and counting people who identify as transgender</p> <p>On social media site Reddit, the “detrans” forum, for detransitioners and people questioning their gender transition, has more than 15,000 members. Transitioning to a medical scandal Ellen Pasternack and Emily Wheeler</p>

HUMAN RIGHTS Questions

<p>Are trans rights human rights?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All people have human rights but the rights of one person cannot override the rights of another. ➤ Transgender rights do not take precedence over the Human Rights Act and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, both of which give biological women the right to sex segregated spaces, sports and representation. 	<p>Several Acts govern human rights in New Zealand. Domestic human rights laws</p>
<p>Is sex self-identification a human right?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Males cannot become females and declaring themselves as such should not enable them to override women’s sex-based rights. ➤ Sex self-identification renders meaningless the words ‘female’ and ‘women’. 	<p>“Like it or not, we are never able to establish an identity by ourselves.” Michael Mascolo PhD Gender: Why “Self-identification” Is Not Enough</p> <p>“To erase the word ‘woman’ means we cannot speak of our biology and our experience.” If we can't define what a woman is, how can we organise politically? Suzanne Moore</p>
<p>What will happen if anyone can be a woman, just by saying so?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sex self-ID will invalidate statistics which in turn will make it impossible for the government to respond accurately to the health and other needs of both men women and transgender people. ➤ It will create statistical nonsense such as ‘men’ giving birth, and ‘women’ having prostate cancer. ➤ It will incorrectly record violent crimes committed by men as crimes committed by women. ➤ It will mean increased vulnerability for women in intimate situations, if it is hard to be sure whether a person is a male or female. 	<p>“In the UK, offending committed by males identifying as women is regularly reported in the media as female crime.”</p> <p>“A recent (2 September 2018) investigation ...showed that almost 90% of reported sexual assault, harassment and voyeurism in swimming pool and sports centre changing rooms happen in unisex facilities. This is despite the fact that unisex facilities make up less than half the total.” Reasons for Safeguarding Concerns With Self-ID -</p>

<p>Are trans rights more deserving than other rights?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ People should be free to believe and live as they wish as long as it doesn't interfere with other people's rights. ➤ The Human Rights Act gives everyone the right to hold and practise a belief, but it also gives everyone the right NOT to hold or be forced to practise a belief. ➤ Today women are being silenced, sacked, and cancelled if they raise concerns about these issues. ➤ In mid 2020 over 700 people replied to an online survey about the replacement of sex with 'gender identity'. They wrote movingly, passionately and rationally about their concern for freedom of speech, women's rights, for children and young people, and about their ability to do their jobs. 	<p>"Of course, people have a right to their beliefs regarding gender and identity, and to live according to them, but they do not have an automatic right to respect for their beliefs, or acquiescence in the charade that their identity is sovereign. All identities are self-constructed and negotiated." Don Trubshaw PhD. Respect, Rights, and Freedoms in an Era of Identity Activism</p> <p>"It is difficult to see how an employee could be compelled to align themselves with a perspective with which they profoundly disagree in their email signature." Legal Feminist. 9 thoughts on "Pronouns: Compulsion and Controversy</p> <p>"Silencing women whose feminism is based in material reality is like silencing atheists because of the demands of a fringe religion. It is the suppression of competing ideas, masquerading as a civil rights moment." Holly Lawford-Smith. https://areomagazine.com/2020/11/23/the-digital-deplatforming-of-a-gender-critical-feminist/</p> <p>The Gender Dissidents Survey of over 700 people was carried out in mid 2020. "I believe the truth matters, and language is important, and it has become almost impossible to speak the truth about sex." https://gender-dissidents.net/themes/</p>
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Speak Up For Women, education workgroup. December 2020
 See website: <https://speakupforwomen.nz>