Intersex Resource Guide

What is intersex?

“Intersex” is term used to describe “someone with a less common combination of hormones, chromosomes, and anatomy that are used to assign sex at birth” (TSER, 2017). There are many different types of intersex conditions, such as Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome, Klinefelter Syndrome, and Turner Syndrome. In the past, the term “hermaphrodite” was used to describe people who would now be considered intersex; however this term is highly pejorative and should not be used.

In the U.S., children who are intersex must be assigned either female or male on their birth certificate, and some intersex people still undergo medical procedures to “normalize” their body during infancy and early childhood. These practices (which are not medically necessary) are highly controversial and have been criticized by countless intersex activists as being highly traumatic.

Being intersex is not the same thing as being transgender; however there are people who are both intersex and transgender.

Looking for more information or resources about intersex?

Content Warning: Some of the following resources contain discussions of medical experiences (including non-consensual surgical procedures); discussions of physical and emotional trauma and depression; discussions of genitals and anatomy; and discussions of gender dysphoria.

Articles

- “8 Things You Only Know If You Are Born Intersex” - Susannah Temko  
  http://everydayfeminism.com/2016/04/things-know-born-intersex/

- “6 Things Intersex Folks Need to Know About How We Perpetuate Anti-Black Racism” - Pidgeon Pagonis  
  http://everydayfeminism.com/2016/06/intersex-anti-black-racism/

- “9 Ways Intersex Youth Want You to Support Them” - Kel Kray  
  http://everydayfeminism.com/2015/03/9-ways-intersex-youth-want-to-be-supported/

- “I’m Intersex, And It’s WAY More Common Than You Think” - Teen Vogue  
● “The ignorance aimed at Caster Semenya flies in the face of the Olympic spirit” - Katrina Karkazis  

Videos

● “What It’s Like To Be Intersex” ft. Sean Saifa Wall, Pidgeon Pagonis, Emily Quinn, and Alice Alvarez  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAUDKEI4QKI

● “Growing Up Intersex” ft. Kristin Russo and Claudia Astorino  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agdTj9f3F0o

● The Interface Project  
  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxqDK13LhbyeHsloy2a0T7A

Books


Other Resources

● “Normalizing Intersex” (special issue of the *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics Journal*, eds. Georgiann Davis and Ellen Feder)  
  https://interactadvocates.org/normalizing-intersex/

● interACT brochures  
  https://interactadvocates.org/resources/intersex-brochures/

Organizations

● interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth  
  https://interactadvocates.org

● OII Intersex Network  
  https://oiiinternational.com

More U.S. and international organizations can be found at:  
https://interactadvocates.org/resources/intersex-organizations/