



Transgender
Equality
Network
Ireland

Resolution on Intersex Rights (RES001)

TENI supports the human rights of all intersex bodied people.¹ TENI will stand in solidarity with intersex individuals and groups to end discrimination and to ensure the right to bodily integrity, physical autonomy and self-determination.² TENI will work in collaboration with IntersexUK and other organisations to promote intersex visibility, awareness and rights.

Human Rights of Intersex People

Many intersex bodied people face extreme human rights violations often from birth³ when they are forced to have “corrective” surgery and procedures on healthy bodies that claim to “normalise” the sex of the child without the consent of the child. Such treatment results in irreversible sex assignment and sterilisation. Coercive medical abuse can also result in psychological trauma. Due to secrecy, shame and invisibility, Intersex bodied people experience high levels of stigma and discrimination.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein stated: *“Far too few of us are aware of the specific human rights violations faced by millions of intersex people. Because their bodies don’t comply with typical definitions of male or female, intersex children and adults are frequently subjected to forced sterilization and other unnecessary and irreversible surgery, and suffer discrimination in schools, workplaces and other settings.”*

Intersex bodied people must be afforded the right to correct their birth certificate and other identity documents. Intersex bodied people must be ensured full legal recognition and explicitly protected by equality legislation.

Position of TENI

TENI takes the position that as an organisation we will:

- Stand in solidarity with intersex rights’ organisations and human rights organisations working to promote intersex rights.
- Consult with intersex bodied people on their experiences and needs and work to promote intersex voices in relevant activities, research, policy and legislation.
- Raise awareness of intersex issues by supporting intersex bodied people to be more visible in society.

¹ The term intersex refers to people born with bodies that do not fit the normative definitions of male or female.

² TENI supports the demands of the 3rd International Intersex Forum, 2013: <http://oiieurope.org/public-statement-by-the-third-international-intersex-forum/>

³ Intersex bodied people may be targetted before birth through pre-natal screening and selective abortions.

- Actively support an end to mutilating and ‘normalising’ practices such as coercive and nonconsensual genital surgeries and other sex anatomy surgeries, through legislative and other means.
- Promote understanding of healthy intersex bodies and diverse intersex experiences.
- Support intersex bodied people to correct sex and legal gender-markers through a simple administrative procedure based on self-determination.
- Advocate for legal protection on the basis of ‘sex characteristics.’
- Empower intersex bodied people to make their own decisions affecting their own bodily integrity, physical autonomy and self-determination.

Resolution passed by TENI Board

05/02/2016