

# GLOSSARY

Adolescence, youth  
and young people

A developmental stage of transition from childhood to adulthood: puberty heralds its onset, with social role transition (completion of education/employment/ independent living/marriage/child rearing) signalling adulthood. “Adolescence” has historically been defined as coinciding with the ages 10-19 years, with “Youth” referring to 15-24 years. “Young people” (or adolescents and youth) corresponds to 10-24 years. This period is often divided into early adolescence (10-14 years), late adolescence (15-19 years) and early adulthood (20-24 years).

Early union

An inclusive term that includes child marriage and co-habitation with intimate partner under the age of 18 years.

Traditional child  
marriage or arranged  
child marriage

Child marriage which is typically arranged or forced. May be associated with dowry or bride price and with large age disparities between spouses.

Circumstantial child  
marriage

This is child marriage in response to unintended pregnancy outside of marriage, perceived sexual activity or sexual violence. These marriages can either be arranged or decided by couples themselves.

Love marriage/  
peer-led early union

This is child marriage or early union that is consensual and usually with a peer (however some seemingly consensual unions may have an element of coercion). More common in Southeast Asia and Pacific and increasing in some South Asian countries.

Sexual Orientation  
and Gender Identity/  
Expression (SOGI/E)

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression is a term that is inclusive of a broad range of sexual and gender identities, including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex (LGBTQI+).

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## Cisgender

Cisgender refers to people whose gender identity and expression matches the biological sex they were assigned when they were born. Cisgender bias refers to the effects of making assumptions that a person's gender is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth.

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