

INTERSEX DAY OF SOLIDARITY

What is being intersex?

According to the Intersex Society of North America, intersex is “a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male.

For example, a person might be born appearing to be female on the outside, but having mostly male-typical anatomy on the inside. Or a person may be born with genitals that seem to be in-between the usual male and female types...

Though we speak of intersex as an inborn condition, intersex anatomy doesn't always show up at birth. Sometimes a person isn't found to have intersex anatomy until they reach the age of puberty, or finds themselves an infertile adult, or dies of old age and is autopsied.

Some people live and die with intersex anatomy without anyone (including themselves) ever knowing.”

1 in 1500 births
infants are born
with “atypical”
anatomy,
according to the
American Journal
of Human Biology.

If you include all
people whose
anatomy,
hormones, and
chromosomes vary
from a strict
binary, the number
is closer to 1 of
100.

INTERSEX RIGHTS

Normalizing surgeries are done to “correct” intersex childrens' bodies. They can cause loss of sexual sensation, incontinence, scarring, and emotional distress. Some of the surgeries may result in involuntary sterilization and require lifelong hormonal replacement therapy.

Intersex advocates want these surgeries to be delayed until the children are old enough to decide for themselves about potential interventions, if any, that they may want. The World Health Organization has called for a halt of these non-consensual and unnecessary surgeries on minors.