

R6 Hands off intersex people's bodies!

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Agenda item: 6. Resolutions

Motion text

1 An intersex variation is a natural phenomenon : babies arrive in the world with
2 a body that does not correspond to the normative definition of woman or man.
3 This phenomenon touches one person in 60, or 1,7 % of the population.

4 It can take different forms: some of them are visible just after birth, others
5 appear during puberty (hairiness, breast development, menstruations for boys or
6 absence of menstruations for girls), others at adulthood (impact on fertility)
7 and others are invisible during the entire lifespan. Intersex variations can be
8 found in hormones, chromosomes, genital glands, reproductive organs or other
9 physical features. Actually, none of these characteristics can be linked to a
10 specific gender : for example, some women can have a Y chromosome, and oestrogen
11 is also present in men' bodies.

12 Like other genetic variations, such as eye colour, intersex variations do not
13 generally cause medical problems.

14 As mentioned in the Political Platform updated in 2023, the FYEG is opposed to
15 non-consensual surgeries on intersex people. This resolution aims to clarify
16 this point.

17 Like female sexual mutilations, mutilations on people born intersex are based on
18 social norms, not on medical needs. We, Young European Greens, do not understand
19 the cultural relativism which justifies a legal difference between feminine
20 genital mutilations and mutilations on intersex people.

21 However, we salute the recent evolution in mindsets. In the past, an often
22 irreversible medical treatment was prescribed straight away at birth: "sexual
23 normalisation" surgeries, hormones... and as these children grow up, they have
24 to suffer through behavioural injunctions based on assigned gender. Now, certain
25 countries and doctors emphasize on vital emergencies, which allows intersex
26 babies not being "medically treated" at birth.

But in Europe there are still a lot of intersex babies' parents who have to assign the sex to the child through medical intervention. Babies are not gender conscious: 40 % of intersex people who underwent a medical intervention do not recognise themselves in the gender they were forcibly assigned. Moreover, they are not informed on the risks they are exposed to: sterilisation, high pains, psychological suffering, etc.

Furthermore, surgeries on intersex women and girls often aim to facilitate heterosexual penetrative sex. This shows that by fighting against medical treatment without medical necessity, we will be able to move forward the battle for gender equality and against discrimination targeting people who don't recognize themselves in hetero-normative relationships (gay, bi, lesbian, asexual, pansexual...).

Non-consensual surgeries can also be considered as conversion therapies¹ for two reasons:

- Non-consensual surgeries contribute to and enforce compulsory heterosexuality
- They are a conversion to an imposed gender identity both medically and socially.

Therefore, non-consensual surgeries aim to make intersex people look like cisgender, just like conversion therapies do.

Finally, we insist: intersex rights are human rights.

We call our national and European representatives to:

- Criminalize medical interventions without informed consent by the affected individual;
- Guarantee effective access to health care for intersex people and transparent access to their own medical files;
- Guaranteed access to justice and reparation for the victims of medical violence;

- Report the gender registration in respect of self-determination of individuals, in attempting to delete the gender in national registers.

1. Conversion therapy is the pseudoscientific practice of attempting to change an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression to align with heterosexual and cisgender norms. Methods that have been used to this end include forms of brain surgery, surgical or hormonal castration, aversive treatments such as electric shocks, nausea-inducing drugs, hypnosis, counseling, spiritual interventions, visualization, psychoanalysis, and arousal reconditioning. There is a scientific consensus that conversion therapy is ineffective at changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity and that it frequently causes significant long-term psychological harm.

Sources:

<https://www.ilga-europe.org/news/call-to-criminalise-intersex-genital-mutilation-in-the-eu/>

<https://gams.be/mutilations-genitales-intersexes/>

https://igvm-iefh.belgium.be/fr/activites/personnes_transgenres_et_intersexes/personnes_intersexes

https://www.instagram.com/p/CZrH7ddgcRG/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==

Reason

Although FYEG's political platform briefly mentions the interdiction of non-consensual surgeries on intersex people, we believe that this points deserve further development through a proper public resolution that explains the issues linked to this practice and that engages FYEG to actively fight against interphobia.