

# TRIPLE JEOPARDY: Protecting At-Risk Refugee Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

## SEX AND GENDER GLOSSARY

**Sex:** Biological characteristics that distinguish people as male, female or intersex.

**Female:** A person who biologically produces egg cells and has two X chromosomes.

**Male:** A person who biologically produces sperm and has X and Y chromosomes.

**Woman:** A person who identifies as a female, whether or not born with female biological characteristics (see **Transgender**).

**Man:** A person who identifies as male, whether or not born with male biological characteristics (see **Transgender**).

**Intersex:** Intersex people are born with physical, hormonal or genetic features that are not fully female or male or are a combination. Many forms of intersex exist.

**Gender:** A person's internal perception and experience of maleness or femaleness, and the social construction that allocates certain behaviors into male and female roles. These roles vary across history, societies, cultures and classes.

**Gender identity:** Each person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with the sex assigned at birth, including the personal sense of the body (which may involve, if freely chosen, modifications of bodily appearance or function by medical, surgical or other means) and other expressions of gender, including dress, speech and mannerism.

**Gender expression:** The way in which a person acts to communicate gender within a given culture; for example, in terms of clothing, communication patterns and interests. A person's gender expression may or may not be consistent with socially prescribed gender roles, and may or may not reflect his or her gender identity.

**Gender role:** How a person expresses himself or herself in terms of traits commonly associated with masculinity and femininity. Gender role is largely a social construct, since every society has different ideas about what sort of dress or behavior is "appropriate" for males or females.

**Gender reassignment:** The process through which people redefine the gender in which they live in order to better express their gender identity. It is often referred to as a process that may involve medical assistance including hormone therapies and surgical procedures that transgender people undergo to align their body with their gender.

**Transgender:** An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression differs from the sex assigned at birth. A **transgender woman** is someone born male who identifies as a woman. A **transgender man** is someone born female who identifies as a man. Transgender people may also identify as one gender (i.e., as male or female, rather than as "trans") and reject the term "transgender" altogether.

**Yogyakarta Principles:** A set of principles applying international law to issues related to gender and sexual orientation as established by a gathering of international experts and activists at a conference held in the city of Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 2006.