

NFWI

Transgender WI membership



Policy

This policy has been written to provide guidance for members who have questions relating to transgender WI members. Transgender is an inclusive, umbrella term used to describe the diversity of gender identity and expression for all people who do not conform to common ideas of gender roles. Anyone who is living as a woman is welcome to join the WI and to participate in any WI activities in the same way as any other woman.

Q&A

What does transgender mean?

Transgender is an inclusive umbrella term including:

- Transsexual is a medical term describing people whose gender and biological sex do not line up, and who often seek medical treatment to bring their body and gender identity into alignment. There are several terms used to commonly describe transsexual people, including MTF (abbreviated term for male to female transsexual people), FTM (abbreviated term for female to male transsexual people) and transman and transwoman (common language terms used to describe FTM and MTF transsexual people).
- Intersex people are born with chromosomal anomalies or ambiguous genitalia. Intersex infants are often assigned a gender and subjected to surgical procedures. Some intersex people develop gender identity issues.
- Bi-gendered people have a gender identity that encompasses both genders - masculine and feminine¹.

Non-binary people are those who don't feel male or female. They may feel like both or like something in between. They may have a gender that changes over time or they may not relate to gender at all.

Crossdresser is a term used to describe people who dress in clothes associated with their opposite sex, as defined by socially accepted norms, but still identify with their biological sex. An erotic transvestite is a person who gets sexually excited by the dressing. A social transvestite, however, simply feels more comfortable in such clothes.

What does gender reassignment involve?

It might involve surgery, hormone treatment or simply a permanent decision to live and dress as a member of the opposite sex.

¹ Information source:

https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/transgender_booklet_2004.pdf

Is there a legal difference regarding whether someone has had gender reassignment surgery?

No and it is very unhelpful to think about anyone in those terms. Some transgender people may never have any kind of gender reassignment surgery but everyone is entitled to be treated in the same way, in the gender in which they identify.

Can male to female transgender people join a WI and attend WI events?

Yes – anyone living as a woman is welcome to join the WI and take part in all WI activities. They should be treated in exactly the same way as all women who are part of your WI.

Can crossdressers join the WI?

No – only those *living* as women can join the WI and take part in all WI activities.

Can we ask for written evidence to prove that someone is a transgendered individual?

No – this could be very offensive and hurtful.