

**“International Conference on Re-thinking Gender & Sexuality”**

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**Abstract**

“Inspiring stories of how to include feminist and LGBTQ topics in curriculum and weave it into a social justice vision may be found in the book *Redefining Sexuality, Feminism, and Homosexuality*. One social justice issue that is frequently disregarded is gender inequality. “The International Conference on Gender and Sexuality gives participants an enriching opportunity to learn more about the field, including its theoretical, policy, and personal dimensions, while also engaging with intersecting fields and the many disciplines that make up Gender and Sexuality and enacting visions of a more equitable world. It anticipates that Gender Studies 2022 will bring together a varied range of research and case studies from around the world in parallel sessions, as well as provide various chances for networking. Every day, people are subjected to inequity as a result of their gender. Addressing misconceptions, health constraints, and a lack of acceptance in one's family, school, church, workplace, and elsewhere is only the beginning of achieving gender equity globally. The global urban peripheries are regarded as epicentres of violence and criminality. Stereotyping like this ignores not only the core causes and conditions that produce violence and conflict in the margins, but also the diversity of positive examples that exist within any environment. This write-up will allude to explain how activism might challenge gender disparities and power relations by using examples of cultural, artistic, and activist activities from the periphery, particularly those emerging globally. In addition to it, this paper looks at how gender and sexuality are constructed, resisted, and refined in children's peer cultures, social institutions such as the family, education, and media, and the state's role in structuring children's lives by defining their rights and opportunities through gender and sexuality-related policies and programmes.”

**Keywords:** Gender Imbalance, Social Justice, Inequity, Stereotype, Activist.

*“Gender is the social construct of how you’re perceived in the world, it could be masculine or feminine or something else.”*

- Robyn Suchy

## Introduction

Rethinking Sexism, Gender, and Sexuality is a compilation of inspiring stories about how to incorporate feminist and LGBTQ content into curriculum, integrate it into a social justice vision, and establish classrooms and schools that nurture all children and their families. Gender imbalance is a social justice issue that is often overlooked. Every day, people are subjected to inequity as a result of their gender.

The human possible and drives of the world's 7 billion people should not be forced by present gender official standards<sup>1</sup>. Addressing misconceptions, health constraints, and a lack of receipt in one's domestic, school, church, workplace, and elsewhere is only the beginning of achieving gender fairness worldwide.

The International Conference on Gender and Sexuality gives participants an enriching opportunity to learn more about the field, including but also engaging with intersecting fields and the many disciplines that make up sexuality and gender, as well as put into reality ideas of a more equal world. its academic, policy, and personal dimensions. It predicts that Gender Studies 2022 will host parallel sessions including a variety of studies and instances originating from all over globe and will also offer many chances to connect and publishing.

Equal opportunities should be available to everyone. Expectations based on their sexuality or gender appearance shouldn't matter in the least. They should be given the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities. Reconsider civilization has imprinted on our minds. Feminist, queer, and intersectional politics to disrupt education at a time when forces are rising to condemn all forms of difference. Rethinking Sexism, Gender, and Sexuality presents a wide range of approaches to accomplishing just that. Gender and Sexuality Reconsidered addresses gender and sexuality in the lives of children from infancy to puberty, bringing together important inter-disciplinary viewpoints. The state's role in defining children's rights and opportunities through gender and sexual identity programs and policies is looked at in this article in addition to how gender and sexuality are crafted, resisted, and refined in child's peer cultures, socioeconomic institutions like the family, education, and media.

*"By using examples of artistic, artistic, and activist activities from the periphery, especially those growing internationally," the author says, "this start writing tries to show why activism might confront gender disparities and power dynamics."*

## Sexuality and Gender

*"Gender is a social construct that refers to a person's innermost sense of themselves as a male, woman, or non-binary individual. People describe their gender identity in a variety of deeply personal ways, including man or woman, but also gender, gender nonconforming, and a range of other identities."*

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<sup>1</sup> *Gender and Health*, WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION, (24 May 2021) <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/gender-and-health>

Contrarily, sexuality refers to the people that a person finds attractive and can include a variety of orientations. There are many different sexual orientations, including asexual and pansexual, despite the fact that gay, heterosexual, and bisexual are the most well-known. Sexual orientation is a part of identity that includes a person's sexual or emotional attraction to another person as well as any behaviours that may result from this desire. Gender dimension refers to including sex and gender analysis in research.

Gender is a term in the social sciences that describes how people's social experiences, personal interactions, and societal institutions impact their perceptions of femininity and masculinity. We refer to gender as a social construct because gender is organised in a variety of ways across history and between cultures, and they do not always correspond to limiting notions of genitals and external physical indicators.

In a similar vein, rather than approaching sexuality from an essentialist or strictly biological perspective, we consider it as a continuum of cultural, historical, and social experiences.<sup>2</sup> Due to the intricate combination of societal experiences, stigmas associated, and individual positions on our identity, sexuality is a societal construct. social penalties, and personal stances on our identities, it is a social construction.

### **Stereotype of Gender**

*“A gender stereotype is a broad belief or preconception about the features or characteristics that women and men should or should not have, or the roles that women and men should or should not do.”* When it restricts a woman's or man's ability to grow personally, pursue a career, and/or make decisions about their lives, a gender stereotype is damaging.

Additionally, when gender roles are merged and intertwine with other stereotypes, they have a disproportionately negative effect on some groups of women, such as those who seem to be migrants, representatives of low class or indigenous groups, disabled immigrants, and those who come from economically disadvantaged status updates.

*“Act of assigning to a specific woman or man particular traits, traits, or roles only because she or he belongs to the social group of women or men is known as gender stereotyping. When gender stereotypes lead to one or more abuses of fundamental freedoms and human rights, they are wrong. not to commit crimes One instance of it is marital rape.”*

Social scientists have made an effort to comprehend why the community is connected with such negative connotations. They believed there was animosity because homosexuality had historically been linked to idolatry, heresy, and wrongdoing. Sigmund Freud asserted in 1905 that homophobia was shaped by society, an individual's environment, and the individual's exposure to homo-eroticism.

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<sup>2</sup> Carol C. Mukhopadhyaya, *Gender and Sexuality*, OER SERVICES, [https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-esc-culturalanthropology/chapter/gender\\_and\\_sexuality/](https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-esc-culturalanthropology/chapter/gender_and_sexuality/).

## **Impact of Gender Dimension and Discrimination**

Gender based discrimination has a significant influence on society as a whole. *“It has an impact on the entire society, not just a small portion of it. For instance, it has an impact on children since they are exposed to gender stereotypes from an early age<sup>3</sup>.”*

Also, it impacts a variety of behaviours, educational choices, desires, attitudes, as well as other variables in young people. As a consequence, fewer females play a sport, and women are more likely to suffer physical abuse than men. Among middle class, there's really adult gender inequality due to a wage gap between men and women. Men are paid more for performing the same job as women.

Research that highlight sexual identity as an essential component of thorough assessments of security and urban violence, in addition to the advocacy of remedies and positive change, have focused on gender dimensions of violence, particularly women's experiences in urban contexts. Urban violence also has visible or invisible elements, as shown by feminist research, which has greatly contributed to this understanding. A lack of study on such gender elements of men's constructs of masculinities as well as how these constructs are contested at sometimes.

Optimistic and de-colonial replies that occur within metropolitan settings and their peripheries, including nonviolent and feminist cultural and creative channels, as well as the variables that enable males to resist hegemonic, these extreme or violent manifestations of masculinity are important invisible occurrences. Men's nonviolent routes have received much less attention than men's engagement in violence, which has received a lot of attention.

Public discussion on state safety and urban violence is driven by drug use, kidnappings, and violence among rival gangs. Risk factors include alcohol use, gun access and availability, population density, poverty, unemployment, poor governance, and state weakness have all been the subject of much research. These research findings had also, even so, frequently failed in the past of properly explaining the complex configuration and tragic perseverance of conflict in urban settings, in addition to the variables that lead to the unequal gendered distribution of violent deaths. These variables are related to it and represent gender specific, societal hierarchies and power dynamics in aspects of the way this fighting disparately affects young folks in highly polarised, unequal, and segregated cities.

## **Steps taken to Re-think Gender & Sexuality**

People are seeking understanding and hope as a result of sexual assault, gender confusion, brokenness, and shame in today's environment. Instead, how sexuality is founded in the greater framework of God's heart and His plan for us on earth by challenging long-held societal beliefs. It gives a framework for understanding the big picture of sexual issues and wholeness, as well as assisting you in realising that every sexual question is essentially a

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<sup>3</sup>Carole Jenny, Thomas A. Roesler, Kimberly L. Poyer "ARE CHILDREN AT RISK FOR SEXUAL ABUSE BY HOMOSEXUALS?"(December 20, 2012).

spiritual one. It turns the focus away from addressing sexual issues and toward boldly preaching and modelling the path to sacred sexuality. Rather than debating with the world about what is right and wrong when it comes to sexual preferences, it prepares to share creator' love and grace with those one meet.

Gender inequality has an impact on everyone, even men. Stereotypes about what women and men, girls and boys should be begun in childhood and continue through maturity. As a result, it has an impact on everyone.

*“Experiences of “third sex”<sup>4</sup> civilizations, such as the Native American Two Spirit people, have long been utilised in sociology and anthropology to teach students about the social construction of sex and gender. People are free to spend their lives outside of conventional binaries in many cultures around the world; they are not bound by the biological sex they were born into. These people are usually admired, and in some cases, individuals are permitted to change their gender position. In the sociology of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersexual (LGBTQI) issues, these groups, especially the Two Spirit people, are used as examples. Recent study, on the other hand, has cast doubt on this technique, indicating that social scientists are misappropriating the Two Spirit phenomenon by applying Western notions. Spirit people's faith, gender, and sexuality, as well as the history and culture that shapes their social status.”*

### **Revolution in Gender and Sexuality**

Over the last two decades, the legal world has evolved, as has the evolution of social beliefs and attitudes about a person's sexuality, gender identity, and gender expression. In spite of this, there is still obvious and pervasive gender bias against members of the LGBTQ community in all spheres of public and private life, such as housing, employment, academic opportunities, the ability to buy goods and services, and meaningful participation in our society's decision-making processes.

*“Across the nation, an increasing number of laws that limit or even abolish the rights of LGBTQ people are being passed under the guise of religious freedom. In addition, discrimination against homosexuals and others who do not conform to outdated gender and sex stereotypes usually takes the form of homophobia. Roughly 41% of gay and lesbian people experience workplace harassment or discrimination, which may result in their being fired or compelled to resign due to their sexual orientation.”*

No federal statute expressly forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by private employers, even if federal laws protect workers against it on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, age, and disability in the workplace. The feminist movement has contributed to developing a social atmosphere where women and LGBT people are more permitted to be open and free with their sexuality, enabling a spiritual freedom in terms of sex. As opposed to being compelled to repress their sexual urges or thoughts, women and

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<sup>4</sup> More frequently used to characterise groups like the hijras in South Asia, which is made up of cross-dressers, intersex persons, transgender people.

LGBT individuals have achieved and are still earning more freedom in this area. As just a result, the feminist struggle to end feelings and behaviour has and will continue to significantly impact the sexual liberation struggle.

More openly LGBTQ+ people were elected to public office in the United States than in any previous election, including Jared Polis, Colorado's first openly gay governor; Sharice Davids, the first lesbian Native American to be elected to the House of Representatives; and Kyrsten Sinema, the first openly bisexual US senator.

Attitudes toward LGBTQ discrimination are evolving in other regions of the world as well. The World Health Organization reclassified "gender incongruence" this year, meaning that transgender people are no longer considered mentally sick. The India's Honourable Supreme Court decriminalised homosexual behaviour and decided that gay Indians should be afforded all of the country's constitutional safeguards. Same-sex marriage is now legal in 27 nations. This is encouraging news.

### **Need to Reframe the settled mind-set with a Growth Outlook**

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) persons continue to confront pervasive stigma, exclusion, and discrimination around the world, particularly in school, work, and health care as well as in their homes and communities. Many LGBTI people are targeted for physical attacks and are subjected to horrific brutality. In many countries, discriminatory laws make consensual same-sex relationships and trans individuals illegal, putting LGBT people at risk of prosecution, blackmail, extortion, shame, and, in five nations, the death penalty. Trans individuals in most countries either do not have access to legal recognition of their gender identification or are subjected to oppressive conditions in order to achieve it. Infringing on their human rights, intersex children<sup>5</sup> and adults may be forced or coerced to undertake medically inappropriate procedures.

Lesbian, gay, bi, trans, and intersex (LGBTI) persons continue to endure pervasive stigma and discrimination around the world, and Pride is a moment to raise awareness about LGBTIQ concerns and celebrate the lives and accomplishments of LGBTIQ people. Every June, Out Right supports the #PrideWithAPurpose campaign to honour the history of Pride, celebrate our great progress to date, and draw attention to the enormous issues that LGBTIQ people face around the world<sup>6</sup>.

Because the gay and trans community is one of the world's most oppressed and endures persecution, discrimination, and violence around the world, support during Pride Month is critical. The worldwide LGBTIQ movement, on the other hand, has made enormous success in recent decades, and there are organisations campaigning for LGBTIQ rights in the majority of the world's countries. The only issue is that our entire worldwide movement is severely underfunded. Right now, we have a fantastic opportunity to significantly accelerate social and legal change for LGBTIQ individuals and guarantee that our gains are not squandered. It will,

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<sup>5</sup> Supra note 1

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

however, take all of us. #PrideWithAPurpose<sup>7</sup> is celebrating and fighting for our community's safety, freedom, dignity, and justice all around the world.

### **Recommendations**

*“Discrimination on the basis of gender has a variety of factors. The first is unquestionably illiteracy. People continue to live in the past if they do not educate themselves. As a result, they adhere to sexist practises and norms from the past. Because educated people are less likely to engage in gender discrimination, education can help to modify this thinking. Furthermore, poverty is another factor that is associated in some way.”*

Given that economically dependent depends primarily on male equivalents, it is the main culprit in many places. Women carry a disproportionately big portion of the load as a result. Women never become independent, and they rely on males for their survival.

Also, the masculine foundation of our society is of the utmost significance. In this environment, the man controls almost each element of life. They think they're superior to other individuals as a result. In the this way, women endure an abundance of injustice and abuse. As a consequence, when one gender reflects itself greater, it becomes unbearable for everybody to advantage from equal potentials.

Everyone can unify behind the cause of protecting children from sexual abuse. However, because we are often driven by emotion rather than evidence, the methods we can take to address child sexual abuse (CSA)<sup>8</sup> are much less effective than they should be. We may wind up injuring children and others in our efforts to shield them from abuse.

### **Conclusion**

Legislature should pass the Equality Act, a comprehensive bill that forbids discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in federal funding, public accommodations, employment, and housing, among other provisions, in order to guarantee that federal civil rights laws specifically protect LGBT people. Likewise, state and local governments ought to enact all-inclusive non-discrimination safeguards. Voters are more supportive than ever of all-encompassing non-discrimination protections: Non-discrimination laws are supported by a majority in every state in the union.

Comprehensive anti-discrimination regulations are essential for holding employers and landlords accountable, even while they won't entirely stop all cases of discrimination. Additionally, they convey the idea that LGBT persons are recognised and accepted at all governmental levels. LGBT individuals should be given the chance to lead full, equitable, and true lives, but that won't be feasible as long as prejudice against LGBT people and their families is still a serious concern.

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<sup>7</sup> Pride with a Purpose, Out Right Action International Human Right for LGBTIQ, <https://outrightinternational.org/P>

<sup>8</sup> A widespread issue having detrimental effects on survivors, whose lives and wellbeing are threatened long into adulthood as a result of the trauma brought on by the abuse.