**Gender Words in UN Documents**

Throughout the United Nations Treaties and Conference Documents the word “gender” is used in many different contexts. There has been considerable discussion of the definition of the word. Some of the usages of the word in UN documents include:

- gender access to education
- gender analysis
- gender awareness
- gender balance
- gender based barriers
- gender-based discrimination
- gender-based division of parental functions
- gender-based methodologies
- gender-based stereotypes
- gender-based violence
- gender bias
- gender biased curricula
- gender biased teaching
- gender concerns
- gender considerations
- gender differences
- gender differentials
- gender dimensions
- gender disparities
- gender division of labor
- gender equality
- gender equity
- gender gap
- gender goals
- gender impact
- gender implications
- gender inequality
- gender inequities
- gender insensitive laws
- gender paradigm
- gender perspectives
- gender related persecution
- gender relations
- gender-relevant knowledge
- gender research planning
- gender roles
- gender sensitive databases
- gender-specific
- gender-specific abuses
- gender specific information
- gender studies
- negative gender implications
- respect between genders
- statistics disaggregated by gender

**Gender Definition: Male and Female**

Rome ICC, Article 7 (3).......................................408

“For the purposes of this Statute, it is understood that the term "gender" refers to the two sexes, male and female, within the context of society. The term ‘gender’ does not indicate any meaning different from the above.”

Racism: Notes-1 ......................................................510

“For the purpose of this Declaration and Programme of Action, it was understood that the term "gender" refers to the two sexes, male and female, within the context of society. The term ‘gender’ does not indicate any meaning different from the above.”

Beijing: 5 .................................................................215

“... For the commonly understood meaning of the term ‘gender’, see annex IV to the present report.”

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Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women
Annex IV

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD MEANING OF THE TERM “GENDER”**

“1. During the 19th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women, an issue arose concerning the meaning of the word "gender" in the context of the Platform for Action of the Conference. In order to examine the matter, the Commission decided to form a contact group in New York, with the Commission's Rapporteur, Ms. Selma Ashipala (Namibia), as Chairperson. The Commission mandated the informal contact group to seek agreement on the commonly understood meaning of "gender" in the context of the Platform for Action and to report directly to the Conference in Beijing.

“2. Having considered the issue thoroughly, the contact group noted that: (1) the word "gender" had been commonly used and understood in its ordinary, generally accepted usage in numerous other United Nations forums and conferences; (2) there was no indication that any new meaning or connotation of the term, different from accepted prior usage, was intended in the Platform for Action.

“3. Accordingly, the contact group reaffirmed that the word "gender" as used in the Platform for Action was intended to be interpreted and understood as it..."
Respect for Religious Values

was in **ordinary, generally accepted usage**. The contact group also agreed that the present report should be read by the President of the Conference as a president’s statement and that the statement should be part of the final report of the Conference.

“* The statement was presented at the Fourth World Conference on Women by the President of the Conference.”

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**Annex V**

**STATEMENT ON THE COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD MEANING OF THE TERM “GENDER”***

“4. During the 19th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women, an issue arose concerning the meaning of the word "gender" in the context of the Platform for Action of the Conference. In order to examine the matter, the Commission decided to form a contact group in New York, with the Commission’s Rapporteur, Ms. Selma Ashipala (Namibia), as Chairperson. The Commission mandated the informal contact group to seek agreement on the commonly understood meaning of "gender" in the context of the Platform for Action and to report directly to the Conference in Beijing.

“5. Having considered the issue thoroughly, the contact group noted that: (1) the word "gender" had been commonly used and understood in its ordinary, generally accepted usage in numerous other United Nations forums and conferences; (2) there was no indication that any new meaning or connotation of the term, different from accepted prior usage, was intended in the Platform for Action.

“6. Accordingly, the contact group reaffirmed that the word "gender" as used in the Platform for Action was intended to be interpreted and understood as it was in ordinary, generally accepted usage. The contact group also agreed that the present report should be read by the President of the Conference as a president’s statement and that the statement should be part of the final report of the Conference.

“* The statement was presented at the Fourth World Conference on Women by the President of the Conference.

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**Author’s Notes:**

**GENDER IMBALANCE**

There is a considerable gender imbalance in the UN treaties and documents that are listed in the Third Edition of the Negotiating Guide. The number of times the words “man” and “men” appear in the documents, compared to the number of times the words “woman” or “women” appear, is considerably different. Consider the following:

The totals are:
- woman or women: 2,642 times
- man or men: 267 times

As you can see, women are considered 10 times more than men. A similar imbalance is shown in the numbers for “boy” and “girl”:
- girl: 423 times
- boy: 76 times

These numbers clearly show a gender imbalance – favoring women and girls.

Some feminists will claim the “imbalance” is necessary – to overcome the male domination of the past. But it could bode trouble in the future, as boys and men are given less consideration.

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**SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

The words “sexual orientation” do not appear in any of the treaties or conference documents contained in this book. While there have been repeated attempts by special interest groups – at almost every conference – to insert these words, and confer new “rights” on people who choose this lifestyle, this has been repeatedly defeated by the official delegates, and these words are not included in the consensus language contained in the treaties and documents in this book.