## 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
gander-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 (Namimbia), 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

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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*Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)*
*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 (Namimbia), 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 numberous 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.

## *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.*