

FOCL Talk 1: What is the Transgender Agenda?

The transgender movement has exploded internationally in the last two to three years fuelled by celebrity endorsement and high level media and political support. It raises profound challenges which are cultural, legal, medical, theological and pastoral. What are its ideological and cultural roots? How has it impacted medicine and law? What is the difference between sex and gender and between transgender and intersex?

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I. Transgender in Media and Popular Culture

- A. Caitlyn Jenner

- B. The Danish Girl

- C. An explosion of gender types

II. Cultural Roots

- A. Radical feminism - 'throwing off the male yoke'

- B. Gnosticism – 'liberate the authentic inner you'

- C. Queer theory – 'gender categories are social constructions'

III. Queer Theory

- A. Emerged out of feminism with aim of rupturing the man-woman binary
- B. A criticism at the level of words aimed at redefining words
- C. ‘Woman’ and ‘Man’ are myths, social constructs which lead to violence
- D. Not seeking tolerance or inclusivity but rather redefining normal
- E. Queering describes an action – undermining or shaking what is ‘normal’

IV. Legal Changes

- A. Gender Recognition legislation
- B. More radical agendas

V. Medical Changes

- A. From Gender Identity Disorder (DSM IV) to Gender Dysphoria (DSM V)
- B. From treating the mind to altering the body
- C. Gender reassignment clinics

VI. Defining our Terms

- A. Sex, Gender and Gender Identity
- B. Transgender, Gender dysphoria and Intersex