

Taipei Consensus Statement



Consensus Statement of the
Asian Summit on Intersex
Healthcare 2025



Intersex activists, medical professionals and policy makers at the first Asian Summit on Intersex health, Taiwan, 2025

We are a pan-Asian group of medical professionals and intersex human rights advocates, including individuals with lived experience, who convened in Taipei, Taiwan, on 7-8 November 2025, as part of the first-ever Asian Summit on Intersex Healthcare. We hail from India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore.

In this Consensus Statement, we share the main findings of our two-day intensive workshop regarding the ethical care of intersex people - also referred to as persons with differences of sex development/individuals born with innate variations in sex characteristics/persons with intersex variations.

We affirm that individuals born with innate variations in sex characteristics, many of whom proudly identify as intersex, are a natural part of human diversity. We recognize the profound suffering, injustice, stigma and discrimination caused by and/or reflected in historical and ongoing attempts to “normalize” intersex bodies through the nonconsensual imposition of surgical or hormonal treatments in the absence of medical necessity (see Box 1 for details).

We further acknowledge that such interventions are not rooted in traditional Asian practices but are imported medical models that have, in some cases, overridden longstanding and less pathologizing local approaches to bodily diversity and social integration.

Given the potential protocol-based, legal, and clinical implications of “medical necessity” (Box 1), we acknowledge that these criteria may be interpreted within professional frameworks to support practical implementation across diverse national contexts.

Box 1. The Principle of Medical Necessity.

For the purposes of this statement, an intervention into a person's genital, sexual or reproductive anatomy is “medically necessary” if and only if its performance within a given timeframe is necessary to avert a significant threat to the person's life or otherwise prevent serious harm to the person's “health-related” well-being.

Given the lack of evidence that non-consensual “normalizing” procedures in early life are necessary or even helpful for preventing psychosocial or mental health-related harms later in life, and may even cause these. A [recent international experts report](#) proposes that medical necessity in relation to non-consensual interventions into a person's body should be determined in relation to physical health, as follows:

- (1) the threat to physical health is both serious and time-sensitive, such that it must be resolved, prior to the possibility of obtaining personal consent, through [the proposed intervention] specifically (i.e., it is not possible to delay the intervention—or to substitute a more conservative alternative—until the individual could consent without putting them at an even greater risk of [serious physical harm]);
- (2) the [intervention, e.g., surgery] is among the least risky, invasive, or harmful of the available treatment options for which there is evidence of comparable effectiveness (i.e., “accounting for all relevant alternatives” [...]); and
- (3) the [intervention] is among the options that will preserve, as far as possible (given the other criteria), the individual's future ability to make any personal, preference-sensitive decisions about their own sexual or reproductive anatomy.[3]

Accordingly, non-consensual interventions that are motivated by sociocultural, aesthetic or gender-normative ideas of how “male” or “female” bodies should look or function are not medically necessary.

Acknowledging recent developments within the international human rights framework, such as the [UN Human Rights Council Resolution 55/14](#), alongside persistent advocacy by the [Asian Intersex Movement](#), we commit to establishing a shared, human rights-based and dignity-affirming foundation for intersex healthcare in Asia, based around the following principles.

I. Protecting Bodily Integrity and Autonomy

Prohibition of Medically Unnecessary Interventions in Non-consenting Individuals:

Medically unnecessary (see Box 1) medical or surgical interventions, including “normalizing” genital surgeries, hormonal treatments, and/or sterilization, should be prohibited in non-consenting individuals, including infants or small children (insofar as they are incapable of providing their own informed consent to such interventions). The prohibition extends to older children, adolescents or adults with variations in sex characteristics insofar as they are capable of providing morally valid consent but decline (or otherwise fail) to do so.

Written Informed Consent and Supported Decision-Making: Decisions that can be deferred according to the criteria described in Box 1 should be deferred until the individual is capable of giving their explicit, free, prior and fully informed consent and can participate meaningfully in the decision-making process. This right cannot be substituted solely by parental permission or so-called “proxy” consent; rather parents should be encouraged to provide support in the decision-making of the individual concerned. In circumstances where parents are involved, the individual's data privacy and confidentiality must be respected and upheld. All relevant information and options using accessible language and formats must be provided to individuals to ensure they make informed decisions.

II. Advancing Affirming and Accessible Healthcare

1. Depathologization and Stigma Reduction: Variations in sex characteristics should be recognized as natural human variations, distinct from sexual orientation or gender identity, and should be depathologized in medical practices, guidelines, and classifications. Healthcare professionals should actively combat stigma, misconceptions, and inaccurate information by drawing on high-quality evidence, including lived experiences, and best practices.

2. Multidisciplinary and Holistic Care: Care for persons with intersex variations should be offered by intersex-affirmative multidisciplinary teams that work collaboratively and respectfully. Care should be non-pathologizing, trauma-informed, gender-affirming, and grounded in the principles of dignity, autonomy, and informed choice and preservation of confidentiality and safety. Such teams may include: healthcare providers; intersex community representatives and peer advocates; social workers; mental health professionals; legal experts; educators, and others.

3. Essential Support Services: Accessible and high-quality psychological, psychosocial, and peer support should be made available to intersex individuals throughout their life, as well as to their parents and caregivers. These services should be covered by health financing mechanisms to prevent catastrophic payments. Intersex individuals should receive support in navigating access to these support services.

4. Transparency and Information Access: Intersex individuals and caregivers of intersex minors have the right to full information, including up-to-date and comprehensive details about their diagnosis, prognosis, treatment risks, and the option not to undergo any interventions.

5. Medical Education and Accountability: All healthcare providers and professionals who interact with intersex people must receive adequate, comprehensive, human rights-based, and intersex-affirmative education. Effective accountability mechanisms must be in place for healthcare professionals who perform prohibited non-consensual interventions. These mechanisms should include institutional safeguards, multidisciplinary oversight, and professional review processes that can guide protocol development and help prevent medical malpraxis.

We therefore resolve to work collaboratively across Asia to advance a model of intersex healthcare that protects bodily integrity, honours informed choice, and fully recognizes intersex people as equal members of our shared human family.



Who we are

Intersex Asia is an autonomous regional network of intersex-led organizations and individuals from Asian countries that work to support, educate and advocate for the rights and lives of intersex individuals and raise awareness on human rights violations and discrimination faced by intersex communities.

Intersex Asia was established in 2018 when 12 intersex people representing organizations and communities from across Asia came together at the 1st Asian Intersex Forum in Bangkok, Thailand.

Our work

Intersex Asia is committed to working within Asian diversity to uphold non-discrimination, justice & empowerment. We respect the human rights of every human being, regardless of their sex characteristics. Our work highlights equality, inclusivity, and accountability in order to build a transparent, holistic, and sustainable intersex movement in the regions of Asia.

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