

"Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth."

(John F. Kennedy - Address to the UN General Assembly-(25 September 1961.) -http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/John_F._Kennedy

World Wide Association

For some time now I have thought of the benefits of having a World Wide Association for all Trans, Gender-Variance and Intersex people.

The idea is to form this association by including groups and individuals throughout the World, in order to give us a larger voice when airing and find solutions for our issues.

Most of the issues that create our problems appear to be the same throughout the World, so why not band together to add more pressure on those who think they wield power over us?

It does not mean that groups cede their autonomy in any way to the World Association, but can put problems to this body, which would be able to lobby at the highest levels of government and medical establishments.

To achieve this could take some time, but the benefits would surely be worth the effort!

How or where the WWA would have its base and how it would operate is still to be decided, so please lets have ideas.

Love and Peace, Kathy Anne Noble

President, Changeling Aspects

PS. Since the World Wrestling Association and a few others have the "WWA" label well and truly owned, we ask for ideas on what to call the Association, for example:

World Gender-Variance & Intersex Association - WGVIA

Yes I would, although I don't have the authority to affiliate any of the groups to which I belong, but I will certainly advocate in favour of it.

What else do you suggest I could do?

Hugz,

 Kathryn

Hi Kathy .I like the idea -not quite sure of the mechanics of how to "join forces" .In what I am doing at the moment with our own outreach program ,I know what you are saying is probably achievable .So far ; using our program of the "outreach program" ;--- I have a few of the main stream organisations in N.S.W and in South A , who are involved in trans gender issues ; at least talking to each other and sharing points of view .Can you email me some more of your own thoughts on this so I can see how you think the next sort of steps would be ,I will put my own thinking cap on later this week ,when the work load dies down a bit -see what I can come up with ?.It certainly is a good idea . keep thinking !!!! Regards Phil/Julia

Hi Kathy et Al.,

My immediate reaction is excellent!!! I have been saying the same thing myself for some time now, you may well have heard me . .Now we need to put on our thinking caps and sort it out . I am certainly all in favour.

For what its worth , today, I received my amended UK Birth certificate.

Keep in touch,

Love ya,

Kaye

It would be a good idea to put all the weight into one group instead of lots of little ones with all slightly different opinions

Erica Transbridge Gender support Townsville

Hi Kathy,

The concept is interesting but as you point out to base and co-ordinate a World Wide Association in one country may be difficult to achieve as each country has the human element of one upmanship and the true benefits of a single body to champion our condition and problems could be lost in the bickering.

Life as a trans-women anywhere in the world is made difficult because of moral and religious issues permeating all governments legislations as they do not understand our condition and fail to accept us as taxpaying hard working members of our communities.

Sex and Gender are confused by them and this must be clearer definition between the two literally.

I have offered to speak to the medical fraternity down here but so far there has been no interest.

ACOS and SHADES Locally are more committed to HIV Aids and the Gay Lesbian quarter of our community so I don't know what more I can do at the moment .

I am healing slowly and it is very stressful for Edie at the moment because I am not able to do the things I normally do

Until I have seen Mr Ceber in Melbourne on September 25th.

God Bless and good luck.

Deanne

Kathy wrote:

>>> This is just my thoughts! I am not sure how we could implement this,

> >> but really believe that it is time to go down this path. Ideas and comments are welcome.

> >> Kathy

There are already a number of relevant organizations.

I suspect another is proposed for the very good reason that the existing ones are, in many ways, failing to fulfill their promise.

I notice for example that the Harry Benjamin Syndrome people made enough of a stir that they had a big speaking session at the WPATH conference. This is neither endorsement nor criticism of their views (I could, I won't), but an indication that making a noise gets noticed irrespective of how formal things are. On the other hand Lynn Conway got to speak to and she tries to be as scientifically formal as possible (its very hard to achieve that given the obstacles).

I think we all need to stand back and take the large view that we have been hurt by this insufficiency of unity among us, but the insufficiency of unity is not something that is easily overcome.

I put it to you all that this is because of enemies are many and not stupid, and they realize that encouraging infighting among us is their most effective tactic.

Their second most effective tactic is to do all they can to prevent research into the subject by normal channels that can be seen as legitimate.

This second

approach is a big thing with the American government and especially through American influence and dominance of the World Health Organization with their influential ICD (International Classification of Diseases). Which is even more extreme in holding to traditional views of transsexualism than the American Psychiatric Association with its DSM.

Let me illustrate infighting (or if you will "Divide and Rule"). Please see <http://tinyurl.com/34fqv> the current Income Tax law case in the USA in which the IRS (tax authorities)

are fighting tooth and nail to get denied a tax deduction for SRS (the plaintiff wants her surgery to be paid out of before tax income rather than taxed income a difference of perhaps 30%). In order to fight this the IRS is putting on expensive expert witnesses to say that "GID is not a legitimate mental illness, it is like homosexuality used to be". They are doing this to disallow the deduction based on a claim of GID. LGBT attorneys are fighting that GID is mainstream mental illness.

This is one classic example of where we are so divided. For a start the above case will won by the IRS and the deduction denied (amount to thousands of dollars of extra tax plus legal expenses on the transwoman).

Before we get into the rights and wrongs of the case, let us all be aware and acknowledge that we are divided and our enemies know this and make an effort to keep it so.

At risk of our-laboring the point let me say that some say "The only way I can get transwomen in jail their Estrogen is to make GID out to be legitimate mental illness. Mental illness stigma is used against us, including by people who deny its even existence. Not that mentally ill people deserve stigma, they don't, but its NOT FAIR, its not OUR fight, we have tons of stigma already and its not fair to ask us to fight others' battles when we aren't winning our own.

Others take the contrary view that transwomen are simply women who are disfigured women who are not being recognized as women rather they are recognized as mentally-ill men so delusional they have to be allowed and assisted by society to pretend to be women in order to save their lives. Still others say the mental illness thing does not harm and so it doesn't matter whether its "true" or not, and in any case, there is no "true" when you get down to it.

Now before we start taking sides and making cases, both for the "rightness" of truth and for tactical considerations for the way forward, I think it makes sense to acknowledge and affirm how we are divided and hurt. Taking sides and trying to convince others of our particular position is very tempting, but it hasn't helped us so far.

The way forward, I think, is through open debate that focuses on long time worldwide aims, setting aside national and short term aims. I would love to see the above translated into a charter for a new organization. The recent WPATH conference seems to not be what we need.

But worst, in haste resulting from impatience for action, is a great danger in wanting to get something DONE real soon we risk sliding into division and infighting.

My views,

Holly

So who is volunteering to to the first draft charter?

If this exercise is to work we need to make a conscious effort to structure in to keep it ego-free else we will be back in in-fighting, and our enemies will be chuckling.

PPS please excuse the typos, its a busy day for me.

Holly,

Thank you for those comments. I for one agree that what you state concerning "Ego, Kudos and Divide and conquer/rule are all alive and well. These we do not need, as it is of no benefit to anyone, other than those self seekers!

I think that we have much to do, if we are to get anything off the ground for the Trans, Gender Variance, Intersex community benefit. I don't expect this to happen over night, but hope that it will happen in my life time.

I am working on some basic ideas, would you be willing to put something together in the form of a charter as you have suggested. I have some people in mind who might also help along those lines.

Love and Peace, Kathy

Hi All,

What an attractive idea Kathy; but I also wonder whether the various groups of people who experience diversity in sexual formation, who share interests in attacking GID style disorder labelling, who seek public financial support for medical treatment and legal identity recognition reform, really know themselves well enough, or even share a common enough language, to act with sufficient unity and clarity yet to not continue the serial self-destruction such groups generally undertake. I generally find it easier to 'go outside and around' the TS/TG/IS groups and talk directly to the larger community here in Australia to try to bring about a change in perception about our predicament - who are easier to talk to and who are certainly less vicious than some of us.

I would never again seek to have anything to do with those most prominent amongst 'the community' in Sydney in the past 10 years. Most of the most sane and brilliant people with TS I know feel the same and avoid other such prominent people with TS (or who think they have TS) in Sydney, or being publicly associated with them, like the plague.

My experience with various international groups and individuals seems to indicate that we are just still too damaged (expressed by both extremes of behaviour from disinterest/stealth concern to anger/extremity - especially the gender expression/sexual formation divide) to undertake the united action that is really needed to take on the self interest/ignorance of the so-called experts who dominate places such as WPATH and who really dictate how we are perceived in the world. I guess I have a particular fascination/dislike for those non-TS/IS experts who shape the opinions of such groups about us. So I would encourage more diverse membership of groups like WPATH by people who have actually experienced difference in sexual formation.

I suspect it will be a slow process of more and more individuals being dissatisfied with the status quo and speaking out in various forums about it as they leave the cyberspace fantasy world and actually join groups such as WPATH in support of reform issues such as DSM and ICD and find themselves united on certain local issues. Discussions like this are useful as there are just too many little groups with very interesting names about.

Given our small numbers and the problems I have had dealing with others like me (and not so much like me who still hang out in the so-called 'community'), I am now extremely reluctant to be a part of any group of people like us anymore. It is easier now for me to do my cases and do my writing and be a part of groups like WPATH where at least some measure of mutual respect exists. I could not go to the recent meeting so am waiting to hear all the gossip.

But I love the optimism behind your suggestion Kathy. I rarely contribute to such stuff anymore, but I have enjoyed the discussion so far and look forward to hearing what others have to say.

Yours faithfully,
Rachael Wallbank

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Hi Rachael,

Thank you for your observations. I fully agree that there is too much in fighting within the TS world, when those energies should be used for the good of all. Many feel the need to feed their egos and also look for kudos, when really they should be working to overcome the plight of others. I see it as them feeding on the plight of others, as it has become a business to them.

The idea concerning WPATH is OK if you can afford to attend their meetings, but most, like me, are on a pension, so cannot afford that luxury.

I too am waiting to hear what went on at the current meeting from friends in Canada who attended. Perhaps we can form our own association and then use our numbers to lobby WPATH and other like associations.

I agree that Sydney is changing, and not for the better. I hear much from a friend who is involved in that area.

Love and Peace, Kathy 12/09/2007

Hi all

As someone who has now been in involved for 12 years here in Melbourne, I can see some fair points from all below.

The Melbourne situation is the best I've seen it in my time at the moment. Sure, not everyone agrees 100% all the time, but we can at least sit down and talk. Which is a damn site better than it's been previously - we can at least agree to disagree civilly (smile). And we did it by plain ol' communication - no rocket science.

So maybe this is a case of everyone taking little steps? Building up state by state, region by region, gradually getting to the "at least we can agree to disagree" stage more frequently. That in itself would be positive with no harm done. Let's face it: if one area achieves something that's still something. It still inspires people elsewhere on the globe.

Cheeyars

Sally Goldner

Hi Sally,

Thank you for that, as it is something that I have been thinking about, which is areas and then regions to get together and talk/discuss items of interest.

There is still too much of 'We know best & thinking that we would be after their clientele' This is a shame, but that I suppose is human nature, to defend what you consider yours, not consider the whole picture.

Any thoughts that you and friends might have would be most welcome, as this is very much the discussion stage to think out how and if we can implement this!

Love and Peace, Kathy 14-09-2007
