

WYA Declaration on **Gender and Human Dignity**

New York, 2025

We, young people of diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, economic, political, and social backgrounds from all regions of the world, affirm the inherent dignity of every human person. This necessarily includes the fundamental truth that human beings are embodied persons, whose biological sex is an essential and thus inseparable aspect of their identity. We recognize the profound implications of gender ideology on personal identity, the threat to the rights of children who must be protected from harm, and the consequences for family and social structures. Therefore, we issue this declaration to reaffirm our commitment to the truth about the human person, human rights, and the authentic development of individuals and societies, and to advocate for transparency in scientific research and medical care.

Human dignity is intrinsic, universal, and inalienable. It is not dependent on external recognition or self-perception but is grounded in the very nature of the human person. Biological sex is a natural and immutable characteristic of each human being, present from conception, and is foundational to personal identity and human relationships. The recognition of this biological reality is reflected in the complementarity of men and women, which is essential to human flourishing and the well-being of society.

We reject the claim that gender can contradict biological sex. While cultural expressions of masculinity and femininity may vary, the human person remains an integrated whole — body and mind — whose biological sex cannot be changed. Any ideology that seeks to erase or deny the significance of biological sex threatens the physical and mental development of individuals and undermines the common good.

Children in particular deserve to be raised in accordance with the truth about themselves and to receive guidance that respects and safeguards their natural development. The family is the primary environment where children develop their understanding of self, relationships, and personal identity. Parents have the primary right and responsibility to educate their children and to safeguard and develop the personality, identity, and potential of the child. Any policy or intervention that undermines this responsibility by dismissing parental authority violates this fundamental right.

Encouraging children to question or deny their biological sex, particularly during adolescence, when physical and psychological maturation takes place, violates the rights of the child. Medical interventions that impact or delay a child's development, must be grounded in reliable, evidence-based scientific research. We condemn medical experimentation on children, particularly the use of irreversible interventions, such as puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and so-called gender reassignment surgeries.

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We welcome the Cass report, and commend all courageous medical doctors and researchers, who prioritize scientific findings and children's health over ideology. We also welcome and thank health professionals who work to care for children in multiple ways, using multidisciplinary approaches that emphasize psychological and psychotherapeutic treatments.

Gender ideology is a threat to children, the family, and society. We urge policymakers, educators, academic institutions, and medical professionals to respect and uphold the biological integrity and long-term well-being of the human person. We oppose any policy or initiative that seeks to impose gender ideology on children, especially those with physiological or psychological conditions which make them vulnerable to these ideological influences. We call on young people to be compassionate defenders of the truth and stand up for human dignity and the authentic development of every person.