

Should there be a « diverse gender category » in Elite level sport competitions ?

WDI Switzerland's position - For YES, YOUNG ENTERPRISE SWITZERLAND "youth debates"

Bodies play sports, not identities

In recent years, there has been an incursion of men and boys into women's and girls' athletic competitions on the basis of so-called "gender identity," a linguistic mechanism by which men and boys claim the identity of women and girls. This claim has no basis in observable material reality. While many Women's Rights organizations and female athletes advocate for the protection of single sex sport categories, some voices are calling for "mixed sex", "open" or "diverse gender identities" categories in the name of inclusion. But sport is about fairness.

The provision of single-sex sports is necessary if women and girls are to have opportunities that are on a par with those of men and boys.

On average, males are taller, faster and more powerful than females. Male high school athletes regularly beat female Olympians' results. Women fought for single-sex sports and spaces for the express purpose of including female athletes fairly. Reverting to male-dominated mixed-sex sports, whether by opening the female category to include males or by creating "gender diverse" ones, de facto excludes women and girls.

A recent United Nations reports states that female athletes have lost 900 medals to males. If single-sex sports continue to be eroded, more and more women and girls will lose their spots on teams, competitions and podiums to males. Women and girls will be at risk of sustaining injuries when engaging in contact sports or ballgames with males. Women and girls will find themselves sharing locker rooms, showers and dormitories with males. This is unfair.

It is fairness – a level playing field – that must prevail over arguments about the inclusion of males as females, if women's and girls' sports are to exist as legitimate competitions.

"Gender identity" advocates want to allow males to compete with females. They claim that this is "justice," "kindness," or "inclusion." We ask: What about her? What about justice for, kindness toward, and inclusion of women and girls?



Women's Declaration International (WDI) is a global, nonpartisan group of volunteer radical feminist women dedicated to protecting women's sex-based rights. WDI Switzerland is its Swiss chapter. WDI is based on the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights, which has 40,000 signatures globally.