

IFGE FUNCTIONS AS:

- an advocate for freedom of gender expression;
- a service partner with the health care community;
- a media communicator to promote understanding, awareness and acceptance of gender diversity;
- and an academic partner for gender education and enlightenment.

IFGE STRATEGICALLY FOCUSES ITS RESOURCES ON GENDER-RELATED ISSUES BY PROVIDING:

- communication between social, professional, religious, governmental and fine arts organizations while fostering open communication between individuals and encouraging communication networks among support groups worldwide;
- referral and access to competent gender-related medical, psychological, legal, and other professional services;
- outreach to all persons and their families who experience gender-related concerns.
- periodicals, monographs, and other educational materials;
- a resource for information about organizations and services;
- response to individual, organizational, and public media inquiries;
- gender research and education;
- understanding and acceptance of individuals who seek to define and express their own gender identities.

The International Foundation for Gender Education

Founded in 1987

"The cross-dressing and transsexual phenomena have been an integral part of the human experience as long as there has been a human experience. These phenomena have manifested themselves in every society and in every walk of life throughout history, and continue to affect the lives of vast numbers of people.

Yet, as common as they are, ignorance of them, and the resulting intolerance and fear, continues to cost good people their happiness, their jobs, their families, and their lives. It costs society its neighbors, its friends, and its productive citizens. The International Foundation for Gender Education is dedicated to overcoming this devastating ignorance."

Merissa Sherrill Lynn
Founder

IFGE

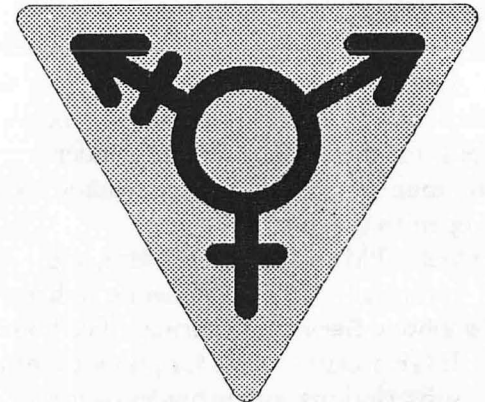
P.O. Box 229
Waltham, MA 02254-0229

phone: 617-894-8340
617-899-2212
fax: 617-899-5703
Email: IFGE@world.std.com

created by Nancy R. Nangeroni
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What is IFGE?

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION FOR ALL



THE
INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION FOR
GENDER
EDUCATION

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) is a leading advocate and educational organization for promoting the self-definition and free expression of individual gender identity.

TO THIS END IFGE VALUES:

- individual uniqueness and dignity;
- personal wholeness;
- respect for human diversity;
- the respect, acceptance, enforcement and protection of gender-related Human and Civil Rights for all.

IFGE'S HEADQUARTERS:

Located at 123 Moody Street in Waltham, Mass., IFGE serves as a focal point for the worldwide transgender community. A well-stocked reading room is open to the public.

Hours: 2PM to 10PM weekdays, and informally anytime someone is there.

Telephone Services: During office hours, IFGE accepts orders for publications and subscriptions, and provides over-the-phone information and referrals.

PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH BY IFGE:

IFGE provides representation and education to professional service providers and organizations such as the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the American Association of Sex Education Counselors and Therapists (AASECT). It provides financial support for projects such as the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy.

IFGE'S CONVENTION:

IFGE produces the annual 'Coming Together-Working Together' convention, dedicated to Assembling current and future community leadership for education, planning, and strategizing about gender-related issues. The convention is held in a different city each year as a means of providing support for local organizations and increasing IFGE's exposure to the community at large.

THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

This community includes all who crossdress or otherwise transgress gender norms, and all others who wish to belong. Crossing social, economic, political, and philosophical lines, its constituents are bound together by a common desire to freely explore and express their gender identities. Some alternate between strongly masculine and feminine presentations, some present as the gender opposite their birth sex, and others blend individual characteristics into an overall image of varying degrees of masculinity and femininity. This spectrum of gender expression embraces great diversity within the culture.

This community boasts a growing network of over 200 local, regional, and national support organizations. These range from small discussion groups to professionally-run publishers of gender related material.

IFGE'S PUBLICATIONS:

IFGE produces video, audio, and printed materials in support of education about issues of gender. Titles cover the complete spectrum of Transgender issues. Sales of these and outside publications provide IFGE's principle means of support.

IFGE's primary publication is a journal called Tapestry which enjoys the largest circulation of any respectable publication on crossdressing and transsexualism. It provides a forum for reasoned discourse about gender and related social issues. For many people it provides initial contact with the transgender community.

DONATIONS TO IFGE:

IFGE depends on gifts for a significant portion of its income. Donations to IFGE are tax-deductible. If you have an interest in gender issues, please contribute.

IFGE is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Funds:

WINSLOW STREET FUND, permanent endowment for grants & scholarships
EDUCATIONAL FUND for special projects
CHRISTINE JORGENSEN FUND for TS issues
GENERAL FUND for operating expenses

IFGE'S AUTHORITY:

IFGE claims no authority with respect to other groups. It solicits broad-based participation via the Congress of Transgender Organizations, founded as a vehicle for obtaining direction from local and regional organizations.