

- [What are transgender men's HIV prevention needs?](#) **Sex & Gender**
  - A person's Sex is based on biology.
  - A person's Gender is defined as "The cultural construction of beliefs and behaviors considered appropriate for each sex" (Schultz and Lavenda 237).

### **Transgender – What does it mean?**

- A transgender person is someone who identifies with a gender role that differs from that culturally linked to their physical sex.
- A transgender person may identify with the male or female gender role or see themselves as the 3rd gender.

### **Transgender Explained**

#### **Transgender**

#### **Transvestites**

Usually male cross – dressers for whom dressing as woman is a fetish. Heterosexual

#### **Hermaphrodites**

Humans born with ambiguous genitalia. e.g. may be born with penis and ovaries

#### **Transsexuals**

Transsexuals have issues or problems with their biological sex. They feel that they have been born in the wrong body. Transsexuals will often opt for surgery to become the sex they identify with.

Most nirvan (castrated or post-op) hijras are therefore transsexuals in the clinical sense

#### **Drag Queen – Satla Kothis**

Male cross dresser. These men cross dress in order to Attract men for sexual interaction/Intercourse.

### **Transgender – A Global Perspective**

#### **Western Society: e.g. United Kingdom, USA**

In western society two gender categories exist male and female. However, the concept of transgender communities is widely accepted. Transvestites, drag queens, transsexuals and hermaphrodites are all categories recognised in the western world. However they are not always accepted or respected.

#### **Oman: Xanith**

The Xanith are regarded as an in-between category, neither men nor women. Under Islamic law, Xanith have all the rights of a man. The Xanith belongs to the category of the 3rd gender. (Shapiro 2005).

#### **India: Hijra/Ali**

In India the Hijra/ Ali are regarded as belonging to a 3rd gender category, they are neither men or women. They are born with the physical sex of a male but identify with aspects of the female gender role. Hijra's have few rights are not recognised by Indian law.

### ASIA & The 3rd Gender



The terms third gender and third sex describe individuals who are considered to be neither women nor men, as well as the social category present in those societies who recognize three or more genders.



The concept of a 3rd gender is common in Asia. Including the Hijras of India and Bangladesh , and the kathoey (or “Ladyboys”) of Thailand.

### Transgender in India

**The Humsafar trust estimates that there are between 5 and 6 million Hijras in India**

#### **The South**

- Ali is often the name given to those in the south who were born as men but identify with the 3rd gender.
- Ali is the traditional Tamil construction of a 3rd gender. Ali's are neither considered men or women.

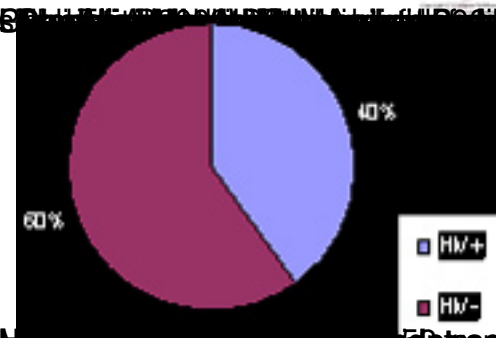
#### **The North**

- Hijra is often the name given to the people in the North of India who were born as men but identify with a 3rd gender.
- Hijra's have often undergone religious castration and dress like women.
- Hijra's have traditionally played a religious role in marriages and births.

Pradeep (2002) 'Interventions among Men Who have Sex with Men' in Panda et al (eds), Living with the AIDS virus – the epidemic and the response in India New Delhi:Sage Publications India Pvt Ltd.

### **Hijras and Hinduism**





Male sex workers • Humsafar study on male sex workers in





[www.vikidigital.org/wiki/Transgender](http://www.vikidigital.org/wiki/Transgender) [www.wakeupwbi.com](http://www.wakeupwbi.com)