

### **Annex 3: Definitions**

**Sex:** A person's biological make-up (for example their body and chromosomes) including, but not restricted to, male, female, indeterminate or intersex.

**Sexual orientation:** An enduring sense of romantic and/or sexual attraction to people of the same-sex (homosexual, lesbian, or gay), the 'opposite' sex (heterosexual), 'both' or all sexes (bisexual or pansexual), or none (asexual).

**Gender:** The social and cultural construction of what it means to be a man and/or a woman, including roles, expectations and behaviour.

**Gender identity:** A person's internal, deeply felt sense of being a man or a woman (or something other or in between). A person's gender identity may or may not correspond with their sex. Includes, but is not restricted to, man, woman, transgender, transsexual, whakawahine, tangata ira tane, and genderqueer. In this submission the umbrella term 'trans' has been used to encompass this diversity.

**Gender expression:** How someone expresses their sense of masculinity and/or femininity externally

In Aotearoa the term queer is sometimes used to depict diverse sexualities, and at others times to also embrace diverse sexes and gender identities. As noted in this submission, the indigenous term takataapui is another such umbrella term that embraces all of the groups covered by this submission.

New Zealand has a significant Pacific population and there are many Pacific terms that are used to describe gender and/or sexual orientation diversity. These all need to be understood within their specific cultural context. They include include mahu (Tahiti and Hawaii), vakasalewalewa (Fiji), palopa (Papua New Guinea), fa'afafine, (Samoa, American Samoa and Tokelau) akava'ine (Cook Islands), fakaleiti or leiti (the Kingdom of Tonga) and fakafifine (Niue island). All typically refer to someone born biologically male. The Samoan terms fa'afatama and fa'atama refer to someone born biologically female.

This comic resource *Born Free and Equal*, written and drawn by Sam Orchard for the New Zealand Human Rights Commission, usefully explains the terms sexual orientation, sex and gender identity: [http://www.hrc.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/BornFreeEqual\\_for\\_Web.pdf](http://www.hrc.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/BornFreeEqual_for_Web.pdf)