

## The Project Nettie statement

*Male* and *female* are scientific descriptions of the two sexual reproductive functions evolved to produce two specialised types of sex cells: small, mobile gametes (e.g. sperm or pollen) and large, immobile gametes (e.g. eggs).

In humans, there are two classes of individuals, each with a molecular and anatomical developmental pattern corresponding to adult reproduction via either sperm or eggs.

This division of the two reproductive functions across two classes of individuals is a simple outcome of our species' evolutionary history.

In humans, anatomical developmental patterns are fixed during early embryonic development, and sex does not change throughout the individual lifespan.

While (rare) individuals have medical conditions that affect their anatomical reproductive development and/or function, not one of these individuals represents an additional sex class. One's inability to produce gametes (e.g. those who are infertile or post-reproductive) does not change sex from that defined by reproductive anatomy.

Attempts to recast biological sex as a social construct, which then becomes a matter of arbitrarily chosen individual identity, are wholly ideological, scientifically inaccurate and socially irresponsible.

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**Information required:** Your full name, academic credentials and institutes, current position (if academic or related), a link to an institutional/professional site so I can check you out.

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## Project Nettie information

**What is the aim of Project Nettie?** To simply reassert the definition of biological sex. We do not extend our claims regarding biological sex beyond the scientific fact of biological sex. We do not feed into any political ideology.

**Why 'Project Nettie'?** Sex chromosomes were, in 1905, discovered by a female geneticist called Nettie Stevens. We hope, in some small way, to honour her achievements.