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... medical staff aren't familiar with intersex people & treat them poorly, disrespectfully treat & stare at their bodies when they're meant to be treating them with respect. Many of them have faced social isolation, and in some cases physical or sexual assault as a result of the things mentioned,

WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU FIND OUT SOMEONE IS INTERSEX?

- If someone tells you they are intersex, they're probably nervous about your reaction or about being violated or rejected. It takes a lot of courage to come out as intersex, so you can start by thanking this person for trusting you and assuring them that you accept them and will keep their issues about being intersex private.
- Give them the space to talk about their thoughts and feelings without judgement, and ask what you can do to support them. If you're surprised, concerned or even upset, this is normal. However, it is best to take the time to educate yourself about intersex conditions before reacting negatively. And most of all respect their identity. Ask if unsure whether to refer to them as he or him



HOW CAN JINSIANGU HELP?

We offer counselling and information, peer support groups for intersex members and also for their parents.

We also provide a safe space for Transgender, intersex and non-binary persons to exist.

For more information on intersex related issues or to get in touch : Visit

www.jinsiangu.org



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INTERSEX

WHO IS AN INTERSEX PERSON?



"CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR THE EXISTENCE OF INTERSEX, TRANSGENDER & GENDER NON-CONFORMING (ITGNC) INDIVIDUALS. "



WHAT IS INTERSEX ?

- Intersex is a term or word used to describe people who are born with sexual organs or biological characteristics that are not the same as the usual understood sexual organs or biological characteristics of male or female persons.
- Sometimes intersex people are identified at birth, while others don't know that they are intersex until later in life mostly during or after puberty.
- When a person is deemed intersex at birth, care-givers, doctors and/or families will often decide the sex and gender of the individual, often performing genital corrective surgery to select one sex/gender and raise them that way.
- When intersex people are older they often choose a sex different from that which their parents, doctors and birth attendants chose for them

DO I CALL AN INTERSEX PERSON SHE OR HE ?

- Some intersex people identify as men and prefer to use male pronouns (**he/him**) and others identify as women and use female pronouns (**she/her**).
- **Do not** refer to an intersex person as 'it or watu wa vitu mbili' as this is **DEHUMANIZING** and very disrespectful.

WHAT CHALLENGES DO INTERSEX KENYANS FACE?

- We're taught to believe that there are two sexes only which are male and female - man and woman, but often intersex people don't outwardly look completely as either male or female. Most times you find that the society is not kind to those who are not easily categorized as male or female therefore they face a lot of harassment and violence.
- Most families who have intersex children come from poor backgrounds and cannot take care of the health & school needs of intersex children, therefore abandoning them.

- Many doctors perform infant genital mutilation (IGM) when a baby's genitals are not clearly male or female. This "correcting" surgery often involves removing of or part of the genitals. It's usually unnecessary, and often leads to the loss of sensation and further complications with the reproductive system.
- Intersex children are often seen as a curse or a taboo & parents who are ashamed of having an intersex child, or those who wish to protect them from the harshness of society, will often isolate their children sometimes by hiding them or chaining them in the house so as not to be seen by society. This keeps them from socializing and being active members of the community. Isolation hinders their development & self-confidence, and may lead to social anxiety, depression or suicide.
- Others who are able to live in society face more problems such as employment discrimination, and have a lot of struggle when accessing health care where it is difficult as most spaces are designed for women or men only. This means most people like ... - *follow on back page ->*