

## Gender/Transgender

Notes for Inspire Discussion Group 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017

1. You grew up as a boy/girl and now you are a man/woman. Have you ever felt that you would have preferred to be the other gender?
2. What is the difference between sex and gender? Where does sexual orientation fit into this, are we really on some sort of continuum, where there are extremes of masculinity/femininity, and we generally fall somewhere in the middle?
3. With regard to sexual orientation, at what age do we think that these preferences are formed, are these feelings genetic or learned?
4. Are there still some qualities, attitudes, skills and emotions that we see as predominately male or female. And the big question, if so, is this nature or nurture?
5. Allegedly women are better at “multi tasking” but it has been suggested that this dates from the stone age, when men went out hunting and women were based in the cave, gathering berries etc, caring for children, cleaning (do you do much cleaning in a cave?), making clothing and cooking.
6. Some would say that the reason women are not promoted as often as men is to do with them having less confidence. Do you think this is true, and if so why?
7. The term “body dysphoria” refers to the situation where someone believes that they have been born into the wrong body, they feel that they should really be the other gender. A recent Horizon programme showed the issues that some people faced, and the way in which they could transition to the other gender, including having hormone treatment and surgical operations to attain that.
8. The Horizon programme showed some research by a Dr Kreukel, based in the Netherlands, which appears to indicate that there are differences in the brain for those who feel they are the wrong gender. Undoubtedly for many these feelings are very strong, and there is a very high attempted suicide rate amongst these people. One reason for this could be the problem of being accepted by society.