

Transgender no longer classified as mental health disorder by WHO

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(HealthDay)—Transgender people will no longer be classified as having

a mental disorder by the World Health Organization.

WHO officials voted to move the term they use for [transgender people](#)—gender incongruence—from the organization's mental disorders chapter to its sexual health chapter in the 11th revision of its International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, *CNN* reported. That revision takes effect on Jan. 1, 2022.

The term gender incongruence is used by the WHO to describe people whose [gender identity](#) is different from the gender they were assigned at birth, *CNN* reported. The new classification for transgender people is expected to improve their social acceptance while still providing them with access to important health resources, the WHO said last year when it announced the planned change.

Gender incongruence "was taken out from the mental health disorders because we had a better understanding that this wasn't actually a mental health condition, and leaving it there was causing stigma," Lale Say, M.D., coordinator of the WHO Adolescents and at-Risk Population team, said last June, *CNN* reported. "So, in order to reduce the stigma while also ensuring access to necessary health interventions, this was placed in a different chapter."

More information: [CNN Article](#)

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