



Motion 14 To direct the World Board to create a project plan for consideration at the next WSC to investigate changes and/or additional wording to NA literature from gender specific language to gender neutral and inclusive language.

Intent: This motion will give the conference and the Fellowship the ability to meaningfully discuss changes to our literature to be more inclusive of all our members.

Rationale by Regions: Our literature currently makes multiple references to gender specific and exclusive language.

We recognize the importance of being able to identify oneself with the language described in our texts in order to embrace the programme. In our Fellowship there are many who identify as LGBT+, who have experienced being made invisible in a great variety of situations. As a worldwide Fellowship we acknowledge that many cultures embrace non-binary individuals.

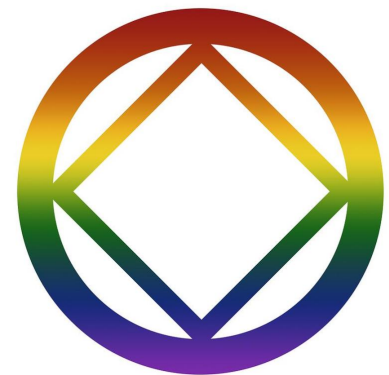
Many of our members have expressed reservation at the male pronoun references to God, which may invoke an image of a specific God or religion. We believe this conflicts with our philosophy which encourages all members to develop a personal relationship with a God of our own understanding.

In NA we are addicts first and foremost and we must always keep our doors open for all addicts who have a desire to recover. We want our literature to be inclusive to all, regardless of how we might identify.

The personal stories section of our Basic Text contains stories from transgender individuals, and we wish to build on this gender-neutral foundation to reflect in all NA text. We allow for personal stories to be exempt from gender-neutral language and remain as they are currently written.

When collaborating with Sweden and Australia it became clear that Sweden wished to have gender-neutral language that was complimentary to the existing language, whereas Australia felt that replacement was the way to proceed. The motion has been written as such that all options can be explored in the project plan and recommendations provided back to the WSC and Fellowship.

World Board Response: The motion seeks to open a discussion that appears to be much needed. The subject of gender specificity/neutrality in NA literature has gained increasing attention and energy in the intervening years since this motion first appeared in the 2020 CAR. As the intent explains, “This motion will give the conference and the Fellowship the ability to meaningfully discuss changes to our literature to be more inclusive of all our members.” We support the idea of having a discussion and believe it is the Fellowship’s collective responsibility to look at how our message is perceived. The motion is not asking for a decision about changes to literature; it’s about whether we’re willing to have the conversation, to “investigate.” This idea is included in the CAR survey (p. 39).



Motion 15 To direct the World Board to create a project plan for the next WSC to initiate the process for the Fellowship to approve adding “gender” to “What is the NA Program?” to read: “Anyone may join us regardless of age, race, gender, sexual identity, creed, religion or lack of religion.”

Rationale by Region: We believe there is a clear distinction between the two terms. Gender refers to one’s concept of self as male, female, a blend of both, neither, or other; sexual identity refers to how one thinks of oneself in terms of to whom one is romantically or sexually attracted. While the investigation of changes to NA Literature toward gender-neutral/inclusive language is a worthy discussion toward greater unity, our region is proposing this first step.

World Board Response: We understand the motivation behind the motion and share the desire to communicate as clearly as possible that NA is open and welcoming to all. For many members, the revision suggested feels long overdue, and there is a sense of urgency about the issue. Even so, changing NA recovery literature is always a lengthy process. A change to “What is the NA program?” would, in essence, create a Seventh Edition text and require revision of the Basic Text in 36 languages. IP #1 would need to be revised in 57 languages, the Little White Book in 30 languages, the *Intro Guide* in 23 languages, and the meeting reading cards in 38 language versions. In short, this is not a small change.

Motion 16 To direct the World Board to develop a project plan, for consideration at the next World Service Conference, to create a booklet of Step study questions where all answers relate to a line in Chapter Four in the Basic Text.

Motion 17 To place an 8 year moratorium on the creation of new recovery literature after WSC 2023, excluding all translations or literature projects currently in development.

Motion 18 To direct the World Board to create a project plan for the next WSC to study permitting service committees of Narcotics Anonymous who are, or may be, willing to serve as literature printing/distribution and selling centers inside and outside the United States.

Intent: The intention is to study the impacts of permitting service committees of Narcotics Anonymous inside and outside the United States to print and distribute NA literature.

World Board Response: This motion seeks to study decentralization of literature production. NA made a decision long ago, and has supported it ever since, to stay unified as a worldwide Fellowship, to have a single point of accountability for the production and protection of NA literature, and not to decentralize as some twelve-step fellowships have done.

Motions 13 – 16 are considered Literature Motions. The World Board prefers using the CAR Survey as the tool for choosing Literature development processes. Even so Regions continue to submit motions on literature.

Both the WB and Delegates agree The process is broken. Do you have Ideas for a better process? Your Regional Delegate would love to know!

