

Safety and Belonging: Gender-Neutral Language

We as a Fellowship want to ensure that all addicts feel welcome in the rooms of Narcotics Anonymous, and gender-neutral language smooths the path for identification in ways that most members may not even notice.



In 2023, the World Service Conference passed a regional motion to create a project plan exploring gender neutral and inclusive language in NA literature, and approved an Information Discussion Topic "Gender-neutral and inclusive language in NA literature."

At the 2026 WSC, the "Safety and Belonging/Gender-Neutral Language" project was approved along with a decision to revise IP #1, *Who, What, How, and Why* as a starting place so the Fellowship can see a concrete example of what gender-neutral language could look like. The focus this cycle is only on the words used to describe members and potential members (not words that describe God or the words of our Steps and Traditions).

And just like that...the proposed revisions to IP #1 are ready for you to review!

[click here to see the draft](#)

The four suggested revisions are shown in the table below in bold.

Who is an addict?	"an addict is a man or a woman"	"an addict is a person "
What is the Narcotics Anonymous program?	"fellowship or society of men and women"	"fellowship or society of people "
What...	"regardless of age, race, sexual identity, creed, religion, or lack of religion"	"regardless of age, race, gender , sexual identity, creed, religion, or lack of religion"
Why are we here?	"ahead of our families, our wives, husbands and our children."	"ahead of our families and loved ones ."

The draft and input form posted for review at na.org/genderproject until the end of October 2026.

Fellowship input provided by the will help determine next steps.
The World Board will keep everyone informed.



Stay informed: Attend an open web meeting about the project. 26 September, at 11:00 am PDT.
The Zoom ID is 838 9514 2767 and the password is 1953.
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