

**SEX CHANGE OPERATION: DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES  
AND CHALLENGES IN MALAYSIA**

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*“Because we are rudimentary, we hold ourselves in modesty.”*

## ABSTRACT

The issue of legalizing sex change operation is not new in our country. Such operation was allowed until the National Fatwa Council (NFC) declared a fatwa on 1983 prohibiting Muslims from undergoing sex change operation. However, hermaphrodites are excluded from this prohibition. By conducting this research, we aim to allow sex change operation not only for hermaphrodites but also to those who are suffering from *Gender Identity Disorder (GID)* or *Gender Dysphoria (GD)*. Both are acknowledged as psychological disorders, which lead to transsexualism. We referred to several statutes, decided cases, the Holy Quran, Hadiths and also books as our primary sources. Other sources include law journals, medical journals, newspaper articles, online databases and also Internet sources. We also conducted several interviews with an academician, a book author and also a transsexual in order to get different opinions on the issue of sex change operation. We hope that this research will provide a better understanding on the issue of transsexualism in Malaysia. Since transsexuals in Malaysia are not allowed to be who they want to be, they are invariably involved in various social problems. Hopefully, this research will open the eyes of the government and also the society on the importance of addressing this issue. Hopefully they will realize that transsexuals are normal human beings who deserve to be respected.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	ii
Abstract	iii
Contents	iv
List of Cases	vi
<b>1.0</b>	<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>
1.1	Text/Proposed Study 1
1.2	Objectives 3
1.3	Definition of Transsexuals 4
1.4	Sex Change Operation 5
1.4.1	Psychological Therapy 6
1.4.2	Hormone Replacement Therapy 7
1.4.3	Sex Reassignment Surgery 8
1.4.3.1	Genital Reassignment Surgery 9
1.4.3.2	Sex Reassignment Surgery 9
<b>2.0</b>	<b>CHAPTER TWO: RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVES</b>
2.1	Introduction 10
2.2	Islamic 11
2.3	Christianity 14
2.4	Hinduism 15
<b>3.0</b>	<b>CHAPTER THREE: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>
3.1	Introduction 17
3.2	Legal Position in Malaysia 22
3.2.1	Syariah Law and Malaysian Fatwa 22
3.2.2	Minor Offences Act 1955 27
3.3	Legal Position in Singapore 31
3.4	Legal Position in Iran 36
<b>4.0</b>	<b>CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS</b>
	41

**5.0 CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1	Conclusions	51
	5.1.1 Introduction	51
	5.1.2 Islamic Countries: Iran and Egypt	52
	5.1.3 Situation in Singapore	53
	5.1.4 Advanages of Legalizing Sex Change Operation	53
5.2	Recommendations	54
	Bibliography	57
	Appendix 1	61
	Appendix 2	63