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Sex and Gender News By Jennifer Gann

— According to Advocates for Informed Choice (AIC), an estimated one and a half million babies are born with reproductive or sexual anatomy and/or a chromosome pattern that does not fit typical definitions of male or female. These gender variant conditions are called "intersex" or "DSD" (differences of sex development).
<http://www.aiclegal.org>.

— On May 1, 2012, Ms. Magazine's Anniversary Gala in Los Angeles, California, will commemorate its 40 years of feminist reporting, and the Feminist Majority Foundation's 25 years of advancing women's rights.
<http://www.msomagazine.com>.

— The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has sworn in Phyliss J. Anderson as their first woman chief.

— Recent rulings by the conservative dominated Supreme Court have weakened federal employment discrimination laws,

Such as the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which protect women's rights. Additionally, a combination of administrative budget cuts, regulations, private school voucher schemes and pressure from congressional opponents threatens to weaken enforcement of women students' rights under Title IX of the Education Amendments (1972). — Ms., Fall 2011, p.14.

— Amelia Reskin-Frazer, a 15 year old Lesbian from San Francisco, was the first openly gay student at her school, started a Gay-Straight Alliance, and later became a Student Ambassador for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). When she founded the Make It Safe Project in 2011, she was listed on The Advocate's Top 40, Under 40 LGBT Activists of 2012 list. The Make It Safe Project donates book bundles relating to sexual orientation and gender expression to K-12 schools, Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs, and LGBT-inclusive youth homeless

shelters. The website (makeitsafeproject.org) is also a resource for youth to share their stories of creating, leading, and joining a GSA club to help inspire confidence in LGBT students. <http://www.curvemag.com>.

~ The Survivor's Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) and the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) have filed a detailed complaint with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague, along with thousands of pages of supporting documents, against the Vatican and Pope Benedict XVI for crimes against humanity. The church has for decades used its enormous power to facilitate the systematic sexual abuse of children by pedophile priests. <http://www.msmagazine.com>.

~ Lyralisa Stevens, a 42 year old transgender woman in California state prison, has lost her two-year legal battle to force the state to provide medically necessary sex reassignment surgery. The surgery

is recommended by medical and mental health professionals, in accordance with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) "Standards of Care for Gender Identity Disorders." Stevens had argued that the surgery was the only adequate medical care for severe gender dysphoria, and that it was the ~~only~~ way ensure her safety against the constant threat of sexual assault in a men's prison because corrections authorities would be compelled to transfer her to a women's facility. The ~~Fifth~~ District Court of Appeal in San Francisco has denied these legal claims, and Stevens' attorney, Allison Hardy, was considering whether to appeal to the California Supreme Court. —

T.I.P. Journal, Vol. 11, Issue 2, Summer/Fall 2011. <http://www.gicofcolo.org>.

— A federal appeals court has overruled a Wisconsin state law, the Inmate Sex Change Prevention Act of 2005, intended to deprive

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transgender prisoners of hormone therapy and standard medical care treatments for Gender Identity Disorder.