



an intersex FAQ by InterACT Youth

Intersex (sometimes referred to as DSD or “Differences of Sex Development”) is an umbrella term describing people born with variations of internal and/or external sex anatomy, resulting in bodies that can’t be classified as typically male or female. People are usually taught that sex is black and white, but that’s simply not true. There are a lot of awesome gray areas in the middle!

**1 in 2,000 are born intersex.
We’re not rare, just invisible.**

Despite such large numbers, this invisibility is caused by a long history of shame and secrecy. Many intersex people are told that they’ll never meet anyone like themselves, or not to talk about their bodies to anyone! On top of that, doctors and parents often try to “fix” intersex kids’ bodies with unnecessary surgeries, trying to make them fit into their idea of “normal.”

**interACT Youth is the first youth
intersex advocacy group in the world!
Help us raise awareness and remove
shame for intersex bodies.**

Get Involved



**interACT advocates marching in NYC Pride March, June 2015*

Are you an intersex person age 13-29? Are you ready to be an advocate for yourself and/or others? If you answered yes to both of these questions, then interACT Youth wants YOU! We are doing some incredible things and are always looking for more intersex voices.



InterACT
Advocates for Intersex Youth
www.interACTadvocates.org
www.interACTyouth.org
[@interACT_adv](https://www.instagram.com/interACT_adv)



InterACT
youth!

**A space for intersex youth to
raise their voices, share their
stories, and change the world.**



What Is InterACT?

interACT Youth is a program of interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth. Our Youth Advocates work together to raise intersex awareness while developing leadership and advocacy skills. We have members all over the US and beyond. We hold monthly online meetings and connect daily on social media. We held the first ever intersex youth retreat in 2014, and are planning more for the future.



**Image from BuzzFeed's "What It's Like to Be Intersex" video.*

Where have I seen interACT before?

Our youth have been featured all over the internet!

Some more notable appearances include:

- MTV's Teen Comedy - *Faking It*
- BuzzFeed
- Cosmopolitan
- Everyday Feminism
- Huffington Post
- Vice.com

interACT was recently featured in a viral BuzzFeed video, garnering over 4 million views. The video is still being shown all over the world, has been shared by celebrities (like John Green!), and is now even part of a UN training model!

Shaping Narratives About Intersex



**Image of Amanda starring as "Raven" on MTV's Faking It*

interACT Youth have recently seen their own stories played out on television. Working with interACT Media and the cast and crew of **MTV's teen comedy *Faking It***, we developed television's first intersex main character, "Lauren"! Our members reviewed scripts and met with writers, actors, and MTV staff members. And in Season Three, our Youth Advocate Amanda even became the first intersex person to play an intersex character on television!

In 2014, interACT wrote an open letter to Fox News regarding an offensive statement about the "intersex" option on Facebook.

In a surprising twist, the Fox News anchor later apologized *on air* for his ignorance!



**Youth Advocate and Coordinator with Faking It's Carter Covington*

What We Do

Develop Youth Leaders:

interACT Youth is connected to a vast network of intersex people, advocates, and professional allies. Our interACT Youth advocates have access to incredible resources. Our Youth Coordinator works with each member to help them reach their individual goals as intersex leaders.

Educate the Public:

Our Youth Advocates have spoken to many different audiences with both the interACT Media and the interACT Law & Policy Programs, including:

- Med Students
- LGBT Groups
- High Schools and Colleges
- Women and Gender Studies Groups
- Religious Institutions
- Continuing Medical Education Seminars



**Youth Advocate presenting at Mt. Sinai Medical School*

Raise Awareness:

Our Youth Advocates speak out and share information through blog posts, social media, videos, written materials, and even television! Some of our tumblr blog posts have been shared over 15,000 times!

Create New Resources:

Our "What We Wish..." brochure series has been distributed all over the world! "What We Wish Our Doctors Knew" is a favorite among medical students, and parents have found "What We Wish Our Parents Knew" to be a huge help in understanding their own intersex children. "What We Wish Our Friends Knew" is the latest addition that is helpful for classrooms and peer groups.