

### As Observed in the USA



*Adapted from Sylvia Duckworth, Canadian Council for Refugees, and Olena Hankivsky, PhD*

Intersectionality: Wheel of Privilege (as observed in the USA). Adapted from Sylvia Duckworth, Canadian Council for Refugees, and Olena Hankivsky, PhD.

# Social Identity & Social Identity Groups

A **social group** is a group of people who share a range of physical, cultural, linguistic and/or other characteristics, and to which individuals are assigned based on socially constructed categories like race, gender, and others listed below (Adams, Bell & Griffin, 1997; Harro, 2000). **Social group identity** refers to one's sense of belonging and identification with a particular social group (Harro, 2000; Whetherell, 1996).

Examples of Social Group Categories	Examples of Social Groups
<b>Gender</b>	Cisgender, Transgender, Nonbinary, Cis Woman, Cis Man, Intersex
<b>Race</b>	Black, White, Latino/a/x/e, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, Multiracial or Mixed Race
<b>Ethnicity</b>	African American, Cuban, English, Chinese, Sioux, Jewish, French, Irish, Colombian
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Queer, Asexual, Questioning, Heterosexual
<b>Religion or Spiritual Affiliation</b>	Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Jewish, Bahai'l, Agnostic, Atheist
<b>Socio-Economic Class</b>	Poor, Working Class, Middle Class, Owning Class, Class Straddler
<b>Age</b>	Child, Young Person, Young Adult, Middle-Age Adult, Senior/Elder
<b>National Origin / Nationality</b>	American (U.S.), French, German, Colombian, Sudanese, Thai, Venezuelan
<b>Physical / Psychological / Mental / Learning Ability</b>	Temporarily Able People, People with a Disability such as a physical disabilities, learning disabilities, mental illness, etc.

## The Characteristics of Social Identity

**Multiple:** We have many simultaneous social group identities; no one identity describes us completely.

**Intersectional:** Social group identities interact, so each identity may affect how we experience the others.

**Change:** Some of these identities are more or less fixed over our lifetimes; others (e.g., socioeconomic class, nationality) may change.

**Choice:** Some of our identities may be chosen (e.g., religion); others are outside of our control (e.g., ethnicity, age).

**Observable:** Some identities reflect characteristics we can see/hear in another person (or think we can); some are not observable.

**Salient:** The identities that we think about, consciously. Identities are more or less salient for different people at different times. For example, being a US citizen may or may not be salient until one travels outside of the US.

# Social Identity Wheel

For each category around the wheel, fill in your identity or identities. Then consider the questions in the middle.



