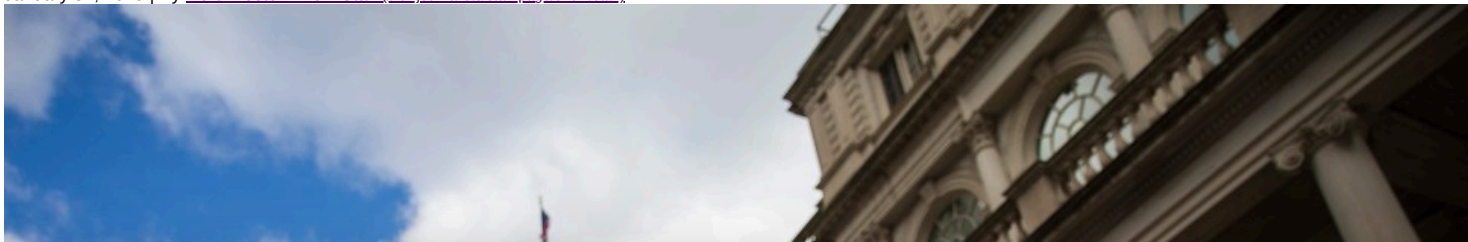


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Three takeaways from new executive order on 'gender ideology'

Northwestern experts weigh in on the consequences and legality of President Trump's Jan. 20 order
January 31, 2025 | By [Northwestern Now Staff](#)



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Three Northwestern experts weighed in with their perspectives on the order.

Legally, the document is 'largely unworkable'

"The new Presidential Administration's Executive Order of January 20 regarding gender and sex seeks to weaken long-standing protections for transgender, intersex and nonbinary people — through encouraging discrimination against people and communities in spaces like access to government-identity documents, health care, prisons, schools, public accommodations, workplaces and more — and does so through harmful and misinforming language," said Northwestern Professor of Law [Kara N. Ingelhart](#) ([https://urldefense.com/v3/https://u7061146.ct.sendgrid.net/s/click?upn=u001_ggh-2BaxUzlo7XKluSly0rC3VFF8OdhqANx8fNQZzIBydxFX8pnwoN2-2F7QU5g6wNfm3uva2J0XWtIz92uVWcj-2FCFzeo090K4WJqC-2B4Of-2FFMl-3D9ksc_xWg-2ByKLEebrcx3nHFRXnxTdGmat9Z8JwaFmJnf6pS-2FEpC1D8MTIjy-2FEydJ9J2iN6DN2oVA4VKA5LgsJbtXyehhb0X6Dn3O-2BsdvdHmp5q-2F8uxB-2BAV5llfhil2plVhYyhMra3Paq1bkCcFbsbHimmVPBcqmpZb8gjoEaLxiRcaetcVRn4wqrc-2FXxUamatUMWuDSzWmF6CaRG58s9Ud48n0qZOWfngrjdTN5vBNPwq9IGzqm6db-2BMy5hb5ZAqQCvHGOGP0YwZe064pGLtiHLWoYeUFzOTdqiBgPfkOE-2F-2BarldGicbqNus3dsy6GVgykiOlcxadplzqhCtup5dqzow-2BTl2ayAoQKqZMTIGPAMonx-2FY-3D_!!DqQX2DkFhyF93HkiWtBOKhkiXV31Dk50U47B8SKOyuH6W3sc2Zn0Y4idopumsXGHE61qAqNAY7I2Tcdx94sIE_FWwUecYDASDYPODN4NmXM_PyxkBUuU8GWGoiDDNU6ChZNI\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://u7061146.ct.sendgrid.net/s/click?upn=u001_ggh-2BaxUzlo7XKluSly0rC3VFF8OdhqANx8fNQZzIBydxFX8pnwoN2-2F7QU5g6wNfm3uva2J0XWtIz92uVWcj-2FCFzeo090K4WJqC-2B4Of-2FFMl-3D9ksc_xWg-2ByKLEebrcx3nHFRXnxTdGmat9Z8JwaFmJnf6pS-2FEpC1D8MTIjy-2FEydJ9J2iN6DN2oVA4VKA5LgsJbtXyehhb0X6Dn3O-2BsdvdHmp5q-2F8uxB-2BAV5llfhil2plVhYyhMra3Paq1bkCcFbsbHimmVPBcqmpZb8gjoEaLxiRcaetcVRn4wqrc-2FXxUamatUMWuDSzWmF6CaRG58s9Ud48n0qZOWfngrjdTN5vBNPwq9IGzqm6db-2BMy5hb5ZAqQCvHGOGP0YwZe064pGLtiHLWoYeUFzOTdqiBgPfkOE-2F-2BarldGicbqNus3dsy6GVgykiOlcxadplzqhCtup5dqzow-2BTl2ayAoQKqZMTIGPAMonx-2FY-3D_!!DqQX2DkFhyF93HkiWtBOKhkiXV31Dk50U47B8SKOyuH6W3sc2Zn0Y4idopumsXGHE61qAqNAY7I2Tcdx94sIE_FWwUecYDASDYPODN4NmXM_PyxkBUuU8GWGoiDDNU6ChZNI$)), who also directs the LGBTQ+ Rights Clinic at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.

"However, it is a largely unworkable document and, on its own, does not change the existing protections under Title VII, Title IX or other regulations and guidance previously promulgated through legal procedures."

Trump's decision to recognize only two genders is biologically incorrect

"President Trump's executive order on there only being two genders is basically like saying the government has announced that there are two types of cancer: breast and lung. Just because you deny the existence of the others doesn't mean they don't exist," said [Dr. Eve Feinberg](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://u7061146.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.ggh-2BaxUzlo7XKiuSly0rC-2B9x8A0pvk3kHhSnlgM2xSzhY22gspnxxfCvqu5DXVF8ppVR15g79FfaZiwQHofkw-2Ff-2FWay3kG6-2B1PnuPP2FzmY4afmQ5YPCwTST-2Fm7eIANBokb5_xWg-2BykLEebrx3nHFrXnxTdgmat9Z8JwaFmJnf6pS-2FEpC1Di8MTijy-2FEydJ9J2tN6DN2oVA4VKA5LqsJbtxYehhb0X6Dn3O-2BsdvdHmp5q-2F8uxB-2BAV5llfhil2plVhYyhMra3Paq1bkCcFbsbHimmVPBcqmpZb8gjoEaLxiRcaetcVRn4wqc-2FXxUamatUMWuDSZwMf6CaRG58s9Ud48n0sOKUQp77ArWDIEyJEiAQnwjodL8Oo-2BY8AQv8oQMfgdlwyCBejydPjEQ67nldlb4w4HbX9v2HcP5yPPGUQjOyagzhNZPdp8LiZP3u4zryMisT0W-2BHcgGjNdzVU9pRXlgr8qIM-2BpPM-2BaZ-2BVNDQgHjP3g-3D_!!DgOX2DkFhyE93HkiWTBOKhkiXV31Dk50U47B8sKOyUH6W3sc2Zn0Y4idopumsXGHE61gAgNAY7I2Tcdx94sIE_FWeUecYDASDYPQDN4NmXM_PyxkBkuU8GwGoiDDNeqa3Z6G$), professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, who specializes in reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

"We refer to conception as fertilization and nobody is male or female at fertilization. Everybody has some combination of X and Y chromosomes, but it's not until between nine to 13 weeks of gestation that formation of the internal reproductive organs begins, and this is not a binary 'male' or 'female' pathway."

Even without legal standing, the order exacerbates violence and discrimination against the trans community

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