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### The First Question from Fatwa no. 1542

**Q: We read in some Arabic newspapers about some surgeries that are performed by doctors in Europe to change men into women and women into men. Is this true? Is this not considered as interfering in matters related to the Creator, Who Alone is responsible for creating and forming His Creation? What is the Islamic position on this?**

**A:** No created being has the ability to change a man into a woman or a woman into a man. This is not their concern, nor is it in their power, no matter how knowledgeable they are on the subject and its characteristics; this is in Allah's Hands Alone. He (may He be Exalted) says: ﴿ [To Allah belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth. He creates what He wills. He bestows female \(offspring\) upon whom He wills, and bestows male \(offspring\) upon whom He wills. ﴿ Or He bestows both males and females, and He renders barren whom He wills. Verily, He is All-Knower and is Able to do all things. ﴾](#)

At the beginning of the Ayah (Qur'anic verse), Allah (may He be Glorified) informs us that He Alone has the ability to do this, and He concluded the Ayah by explaining the basis of His Exclusive Power through the perfection of His Knowledge and Omnipotence. However, sometimes the gender of a newborn child might be dubious and it may not be clear whether it is a boy or a girl. It may appear at first to be a girl, when it is actually a boy, or vice versa. In most cases, the ambiguity is removed and the truth is established once the child reaches puberty, and the doctors may perform surgical operations that will harmonize the individual with the reality of them being

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a male or a female; although surgery might not be required in some cases. What doctors actually do in these circumstances is that they discover the real gender of the person when they perform the operation; they do not change a man into a woman or a woman into a man. Therefore, it should be not understood that they are interfering in matters related to the Creator, instead they are just showing people what was originally created by Allah. And Allah knows best!

May the Blessings and Peace of Allah be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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