



**GENERATIONS
A H E A D**

Position Statement on Sex Selection

Generations Ahead works to discourage sex selective practices while protecting reproductive autonomy, including access to comprehensive health care and abortion. The use of sex selective technologies reflects and perpetuates gender stereotypes that limit human potential, reinforcing unfortunate social and cultural norms. At Generations Ahead, we believe that changing attitudes and behaviors related to sex selection begins with encouraging prospective parents to ask themselves “What kind of a parent do I want to be?” rather than “What kind of child do I want?”

We all have ideas of what we expect or want our kids to be, but we can’t force these notions upon them. Prospective parents who use sex selective procedures – whether through sperm sorting, preimplantation genetic diagnosis, or abortion – often have particular expectations of what it means to parent a boy or a girl. It can be extremely difficult to avoid the influence of societal sex and gender stereotypes in imagining what it will be like to raise a child.

Supporting healthy parenting and strong families is a critical aspect of our work. It is extremely common to have an initial preference for a girl or a boy or to harbor a vision of the ‘perfect family.’ Yet parenting is not a decision about choosing a boy vs. girl; it is a lifelong process of helping our kids grow up safe, confident, and proud of who they are. Ultimately we love our children for who they are, not who or what we imagined they might be.

Generations Ahead works to discourage sex selective practices through partnerships with South Asian and Asian American community groups, reproductive health, rights and justice organizations, and health care professionals. We have developed tools and messages for advocating more effectively on this issue in legal, legislative, professional, and community contexts. We are researching the influence of social preferences based on real or perceived benefits of having a boy or a girl, widespread gendered expectations of boys and girls, and aggressive advertising by doctors providing sex selective technologies.

Our goal is to change the context in which parents seek and make decisions about using sex selective techniques by working through long-term engagement and authentic and nuanced conversations with our partners.

