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“Inside out”: children in the wrong body

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Girls who feel like a boy inside, boys who feel like a girl. A Dutch photographer and journalist have brought out a book on transgender children who opted for a sex change at an Amsterdam hospital.

For the past seven years photographer Sarah Wong and journalist Ellen de Visser have been following 11 Dutch children on the way to a new identity. Their photos and reports give a glimpse inside the lives of children born in "the wrong body".

In the book, the children's personalities develop, they talk about their decision to opt for a sex change, and their doctors and psychologists explain their work with the children and the dilemmas they encounter.

Hormones

At the VU Medical Centre's gender clinic in Amsterdam, dozens of transgender children have been successfully treated to make their bodies match their feelings. From the age of twelve they can start taking drugs to hold off the start of puberty, and when they are 16 they can start taking sex-change hormones.

Starting early brings major advantages. It limits or prevents psychological problems, and sex-change operations look better because the children haven't developed secondary sexual characteristics during puberty. The unconventional Amsterdam approach is now being copied by clinics in other countries.

Sarah Wong's photos of transgender children were first published in 2003 in Dutch daily *de Volkskrant*.



An [RNW website](#) about love, sex, relationships and everything in between.

[Here](#) you'll find loads of blush-free information to help you improve your sex life and stay healthy and happy.

More:

Inside out (English language edition), photography Sarah Wong, text Ellen de Visser
Publisher: De Jonge Hond

The reportage on the often neglected phenomenon of transgender children generated a huge response both in the Netherlands and abroad.

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