



# Gender Roles: Men & Women

**The term 'gender role' refers to the roles that males and females are expected to play. Often, gender roles are stereotypes. For example, typical gender roles say that men are supposed to be aggressive and not show emotions, while women are supposed to be very emotional and wear dresses and 'feminine' clothes.**

**In the box below, write as many male gender roles as you can think of. In other words, if someone said, "Act like a man!" what would they mean? Then, think about what happens when a male steps out of the 'Man Box' and doesn't behave that way. Write the names he gets called and the actions that are taken against him that smack him back in the box.**

## The MAN Box

**Words that smack males  
back in the box**

A large, empty rectangular box with a hand-drawn, slightly irregular border, intended for writing words that smack males back in the box.

**Actions that smack males  
back in the box**

Now do the same exercise for females. What does it mean when someone says, "Act like a lady," and what gets said and done to her when she steps out of the box?

## The LADY Box

**Words that smack  
females back in the box**

A large, empty rectangular box with a hand-drawn, slightly irregular border, intended for writing words that smack females back in the box.

**Actions that smack females  
back in the box**