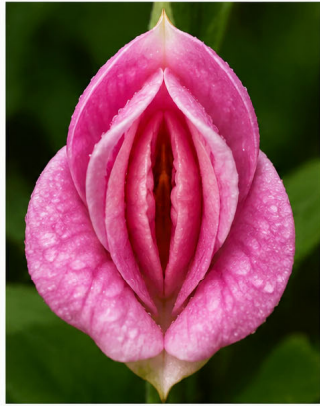


## The Child's Sacred Flower



**Lady's Slipper Orchid**

The shape of this flower closely resembles the female genitals, with outer lips (labia) and an inner opening.



**Calla Lily**

The central spadix (stamen) stands upright and is phallic in shape, often representing the male genital.



**Iris**

The iris flower contains both male (stamens) and female (pistil) parts, representing both together.

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Every child is born with a beautiful, unique and very private flower of their very own. May this flower bloom into joy, pleasure and connection. May this flower give identity, belonging and wellbeing. May this flower, if desired, be a place where new life is created and brought into the world. May this delicate flower be protected from harm. And may this flower not be ignored or neglected out of shame. Because this flower is not shameful, insignificant or trivial. This flower is sacred.

A child's sacred flower is theirs alone. They may later choose to share their flower with whomever they wish, or choose not to share it. They may later choose to change their flower, or to keep it as is. They may later choose to decorate their flower, or to let it shine in its original beauty.

They alone should make these choices, when they are ready, and by their own consent. Every human, child or adult, has a birthright to consent. To be able to say; "My body, my choice!" It does not matter if the shape of the child's flower is a penis, a vulva, or even something rarer and more special. The shape of the flower is not important. What truly matters is to whom the flower belongs.

We humans have a duty to protect all children, regardless of what their sacred flower looks like, so that they can grow free from violence to their bodies; so that no one can falsely claim a child's sacred flower as their own, violating what is not theirs; and so that all children and all sacred genital flowers are protected equally. We know that the sacredness of the flower depends not on its shape, but because it belongs to the child, and that a child's sacred flower does not belong to any religion, culture, or community, or even to the child's parents. It belongs to the child alone.

We will protect these sacred flowers for every child's future, because what is done with the flower is their choice alone, when they are ready, and no one else's. Despite our many differences we are all human beings. We must come together to create a world where every child can grow up free from violence to their bodies, regardless of the shape of their sacred genital flower.

To accomplish this, we must identify with all humans, regardless of their sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. When we say "my body, my choice" we must include everyone and mean it. We must see to it that no child will ever be considered less than a full human by protecting only a few from nonconsensual genital cutting while allowing others to be subjected to similar violations of consent and bodily integrity. We, who live in bodies of many shapes, must say together; "We will not tolerate leaving anyone behind."