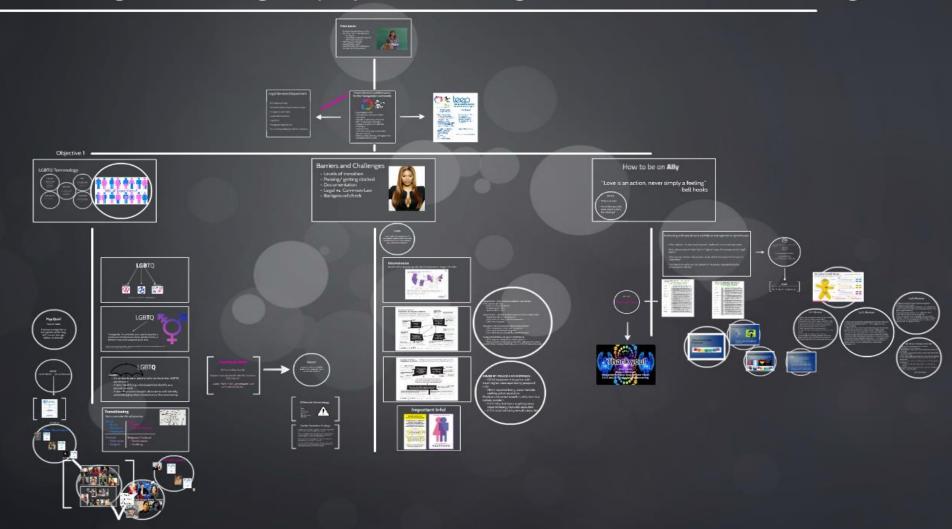
# Gender & Sexual Diversity

A guide to understanding and interacting with people who are Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming





# **Drian Juarez:**

- Preferred Gender Pronouns: She, Her, They, Them, Transhumanist
  - Immigrant
  - Grass Roots Organizer since 05
  - HIV Health Educator
- TEEP Program Manager
- Board President GJLA
- Board Member West Hollywood Transgender Advisory Board







# ntroductions

# Center Services and Resources for the Transgender Community



LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER

- Established in 1971
- 435 staff and more than 3000 volunteers
- Provides a wide array of services:
- HIV medical care and testing
- Transgender primary health care
- Pharmacy
- Legal Services
- Low cost counseling and addiction recovery services
- Housing, food, clothing and support for homeless LGBTQ youth







LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER

TEEP
(Transgender Economic
Empowerment Project)



# **Employee**Direct Services

Case Management:
Resume Development
Cover Letter development
Interviewing Skills
Employment Leads
Documentation Correction
E-Mail Blast(TEEPBLAST)
Support Group(TEEPTALK)

Supportive Services
Employer Advocacy
Referral Service:
Legal Advocacy
Housing
Health Care
Community Support

# **Employer**

Gender Identity 101: Trans-Identity Employment Issues Tips For Employers Developing Transition Guidelines

Supportive Services

Continued Free Consultation





# Legal Services Department

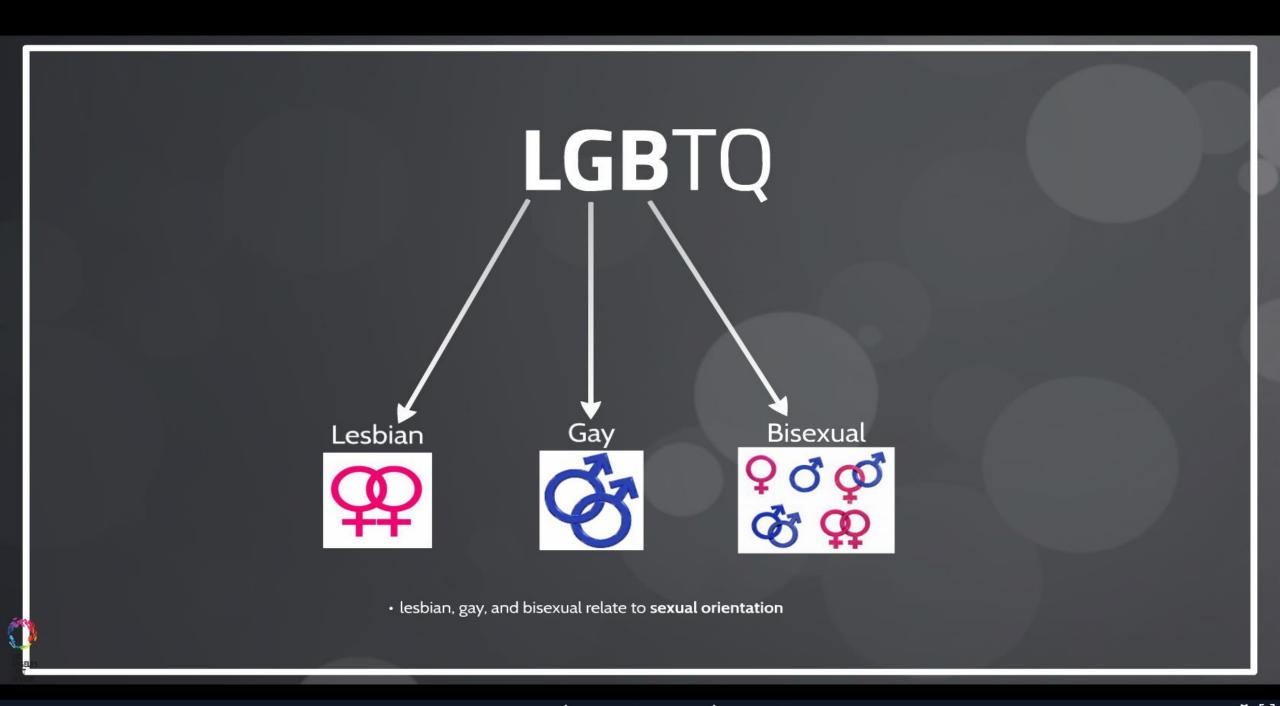
- Anti-Violence Project
- Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project
- Immigration Law Project
- .
- Lawyer Referral Service
- Legal Clinic
- Transgender Legal Services
- •
- We are always looking for volunteer attorneys













Transgender: An umbrella term used to describe a continuum of individuals whose gender identity is different from their assigned sex at birth.

Note: if you are uncertain how to address someone, ask questions like, "What are your preferred gender pronouns?" or "What name would you like for me to call you?"





# LGBTQ

# Queer:

- An umbrella term used to refer to the entire LGBTQ community
- A term identifying individuals that identify as a sexual minority
- A term that some straight allies use to self-identify, acknowledging their connection to the community

# LGBTQ Terminology

**Gender Identity** 

A person's internal sense of gender, which may be different from one's

#### **Assigned Sex**

The biological and physiological characteristics that define an individual as male or female at birth

> Intersex a general term used for a waterty of canditions, in which a general is been with seponductive or serval anatomy that doesn't seem to It the typical definition of male or female.

#### **Gender Expression**

How we communicate our gender

#### Gender

The socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate as masculine or feminine

- Think Barbies vs. G.I. Joes!

#### Sexual Orientation

A person's physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction to members of the same gender and/or different gender









# **Assigned Sex**

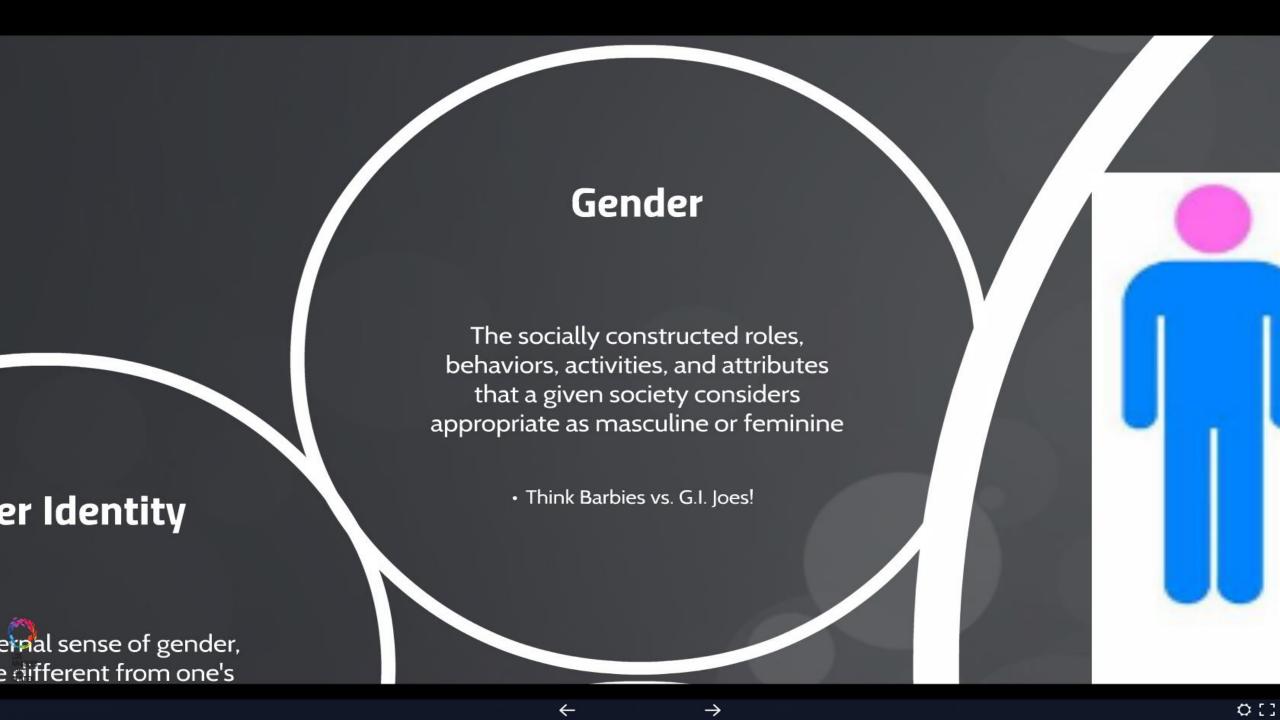
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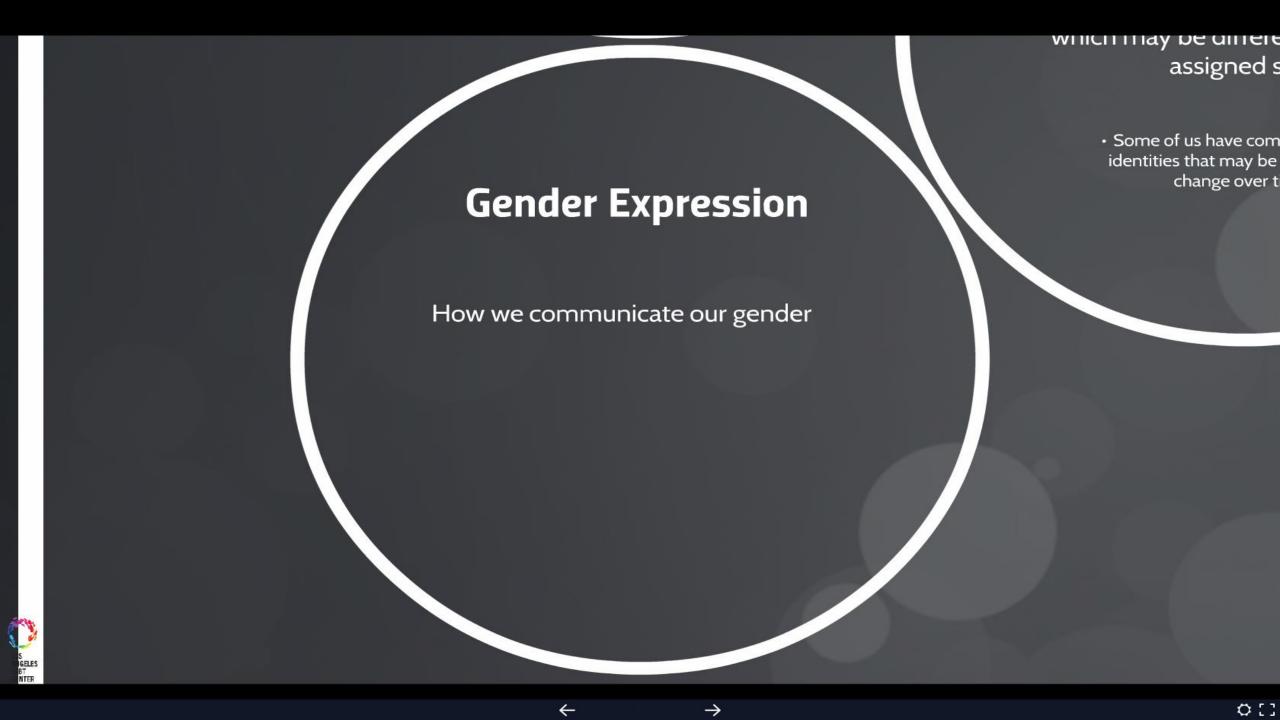
 Intersex: a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definition of male or female.

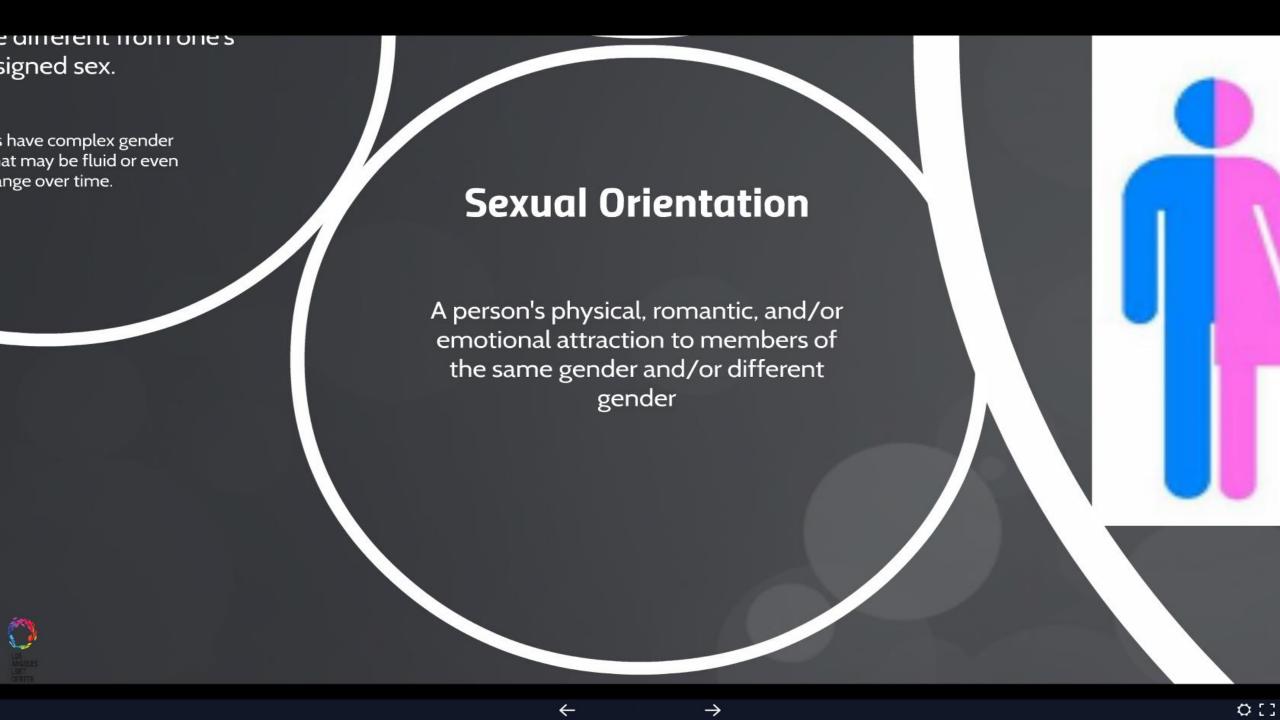


A person's internal se which may be differe









# inology

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# Gender Identity/Sexual Orientation Continuum

#### Sex

Physical traits, such as hormonal, chromosomal, and genital characteristics that are generally observable.

Male

Intersex
Female

#### Gender Identity

Internal sense of who we are that cannot be objectively measured.

Male Third Gender Female

#### Gender Expression

External presentation that usually expresses how we want our sex and/or gender identity to be perceived

Masculine

Androgynous

Feminine

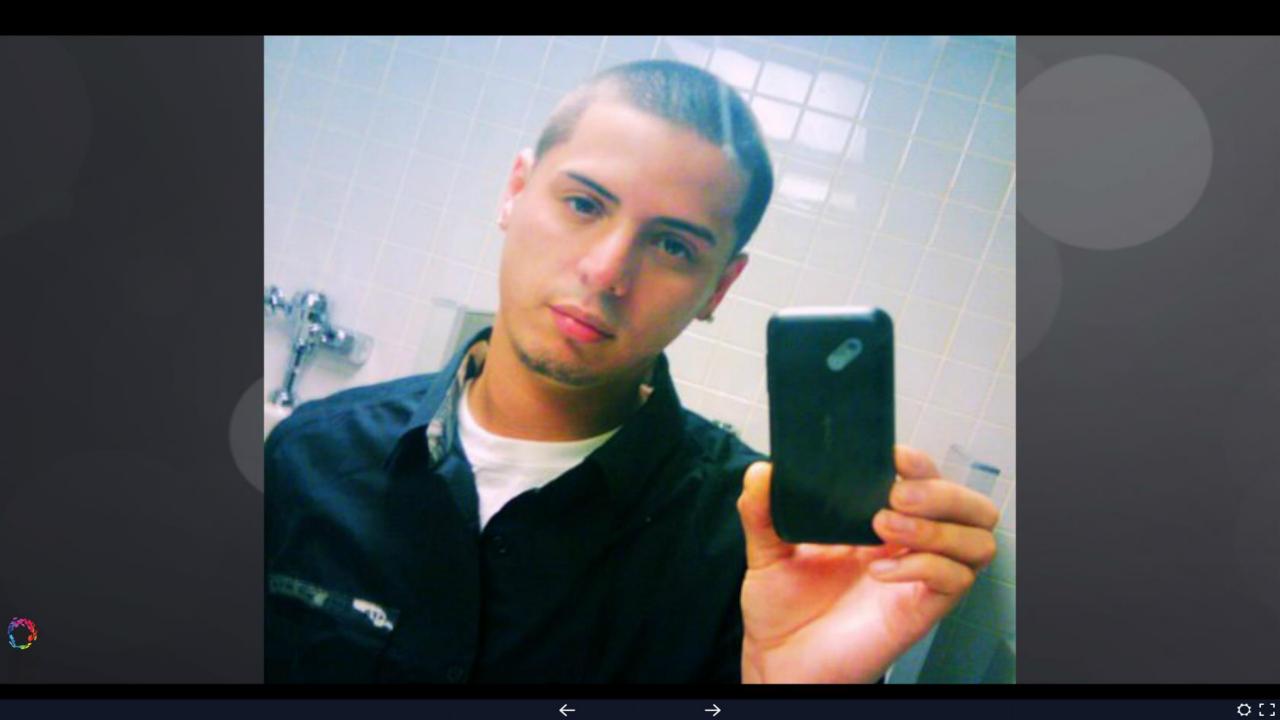
#### **Sexual Orientation**

Sexual, romantic, affectional attraction to others

Female & Male Partners, transgender people Male











Gender Identity/Sexual Orientation

Continuum

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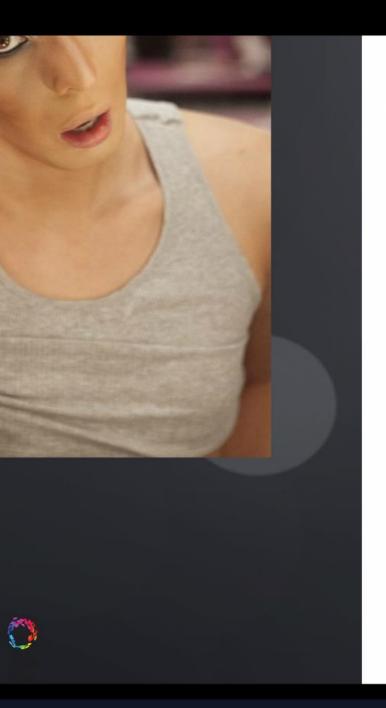
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Internal sense of who











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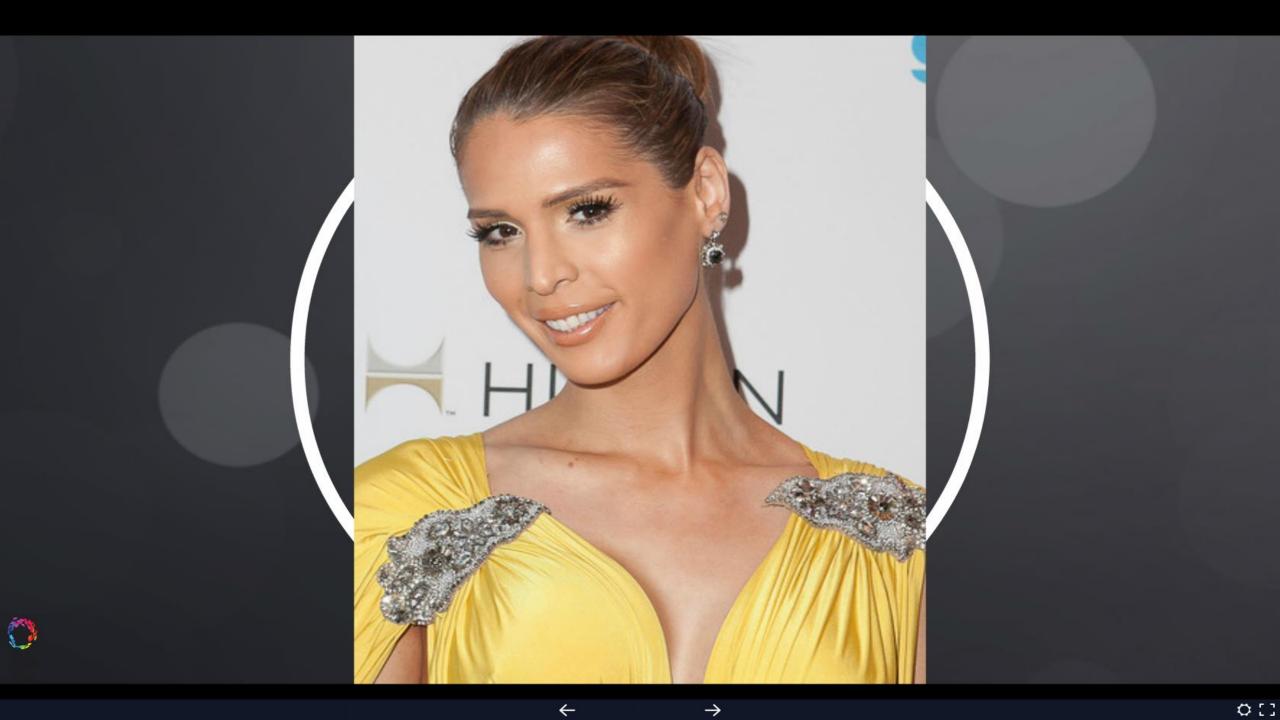
Sexual, romantic, affectional attraction to others

Female

Female & Male Partners, transgender people

Male





# Carmen Carrera



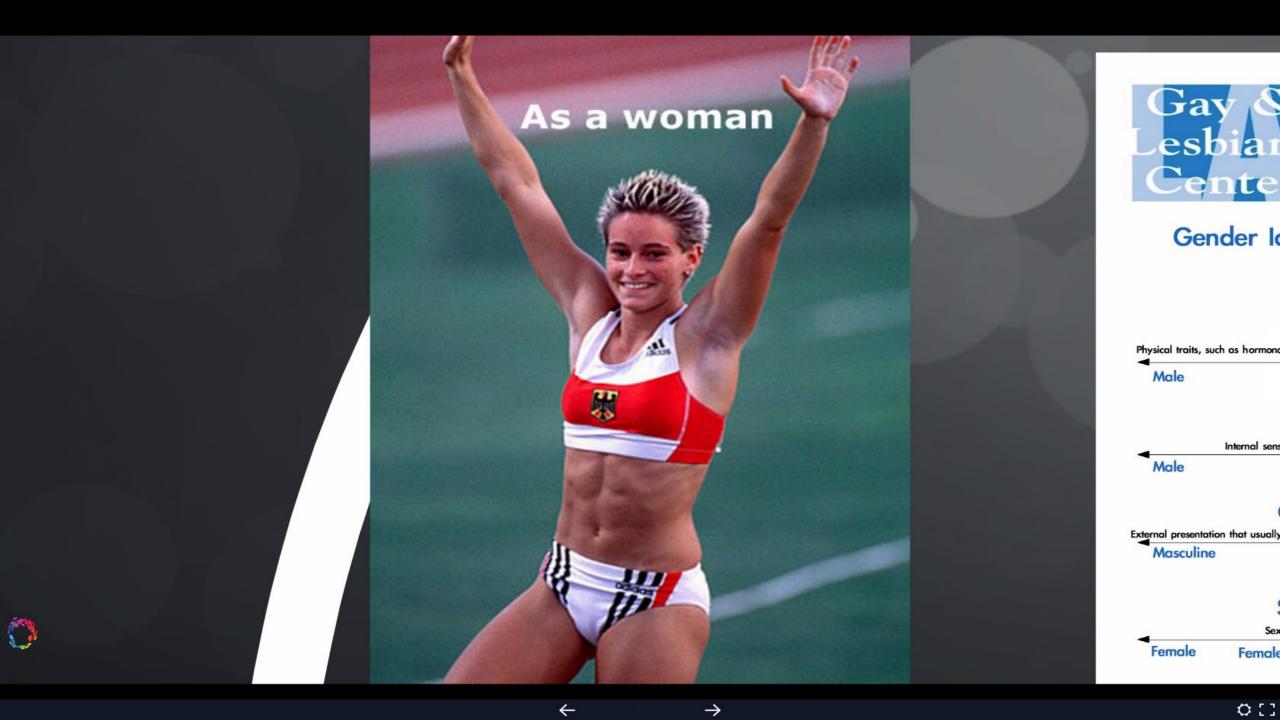
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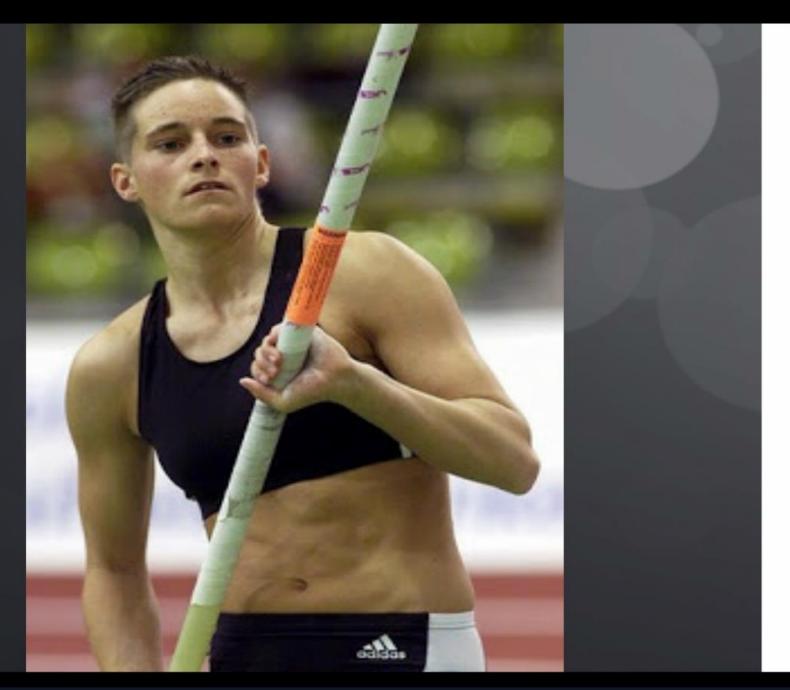
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Female

Female & Male Partners, transgender people

Male





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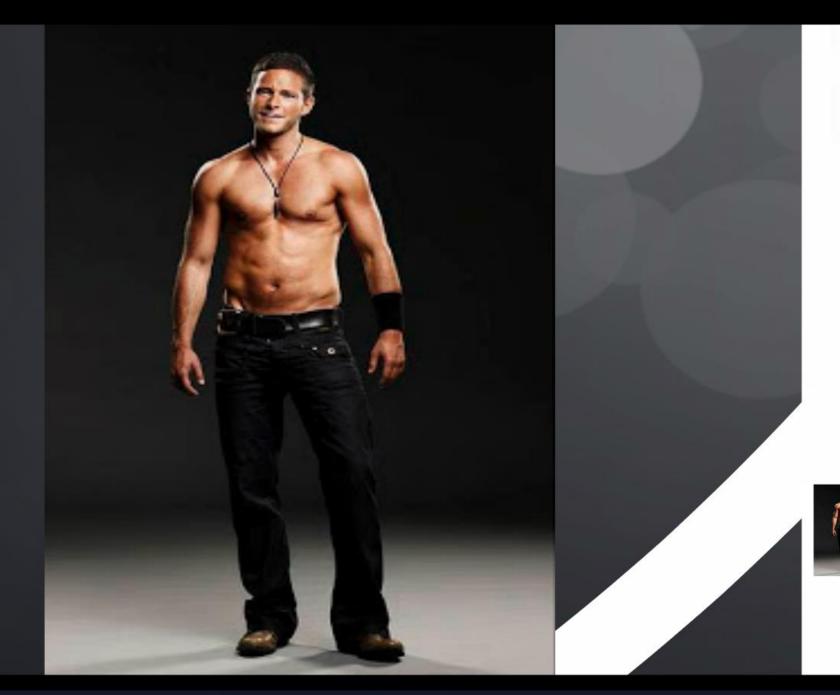
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Female & Male Partners, transgender people

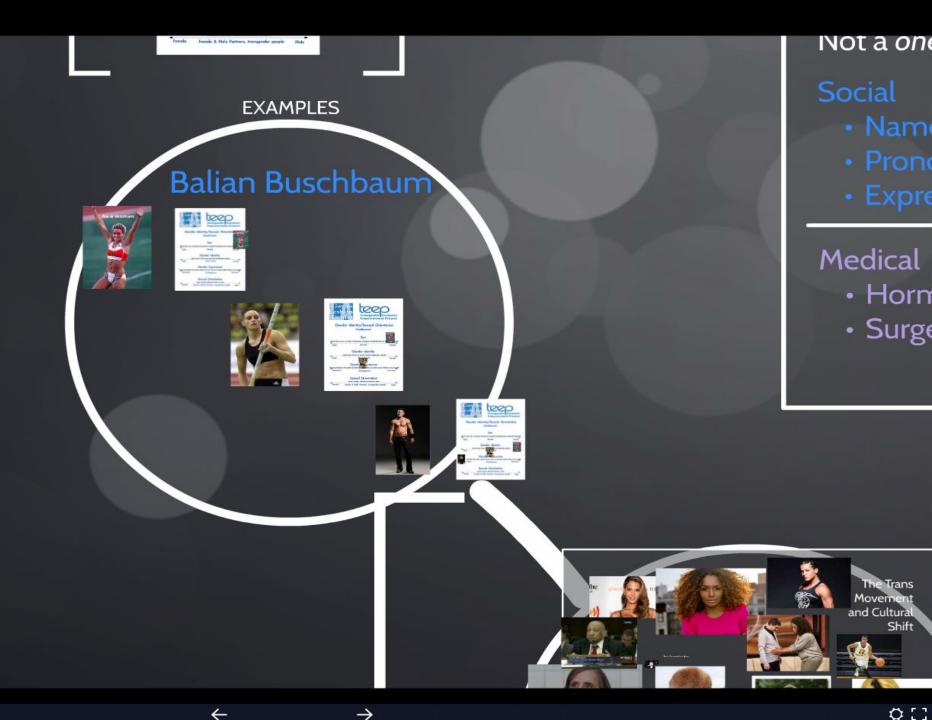
Male











# **Transitioning**

Not a *one-size-fits-all* process

# Social

- Name
- Pronouns
- Expression

# Legal

- Name
- Gender Markers



# Medical

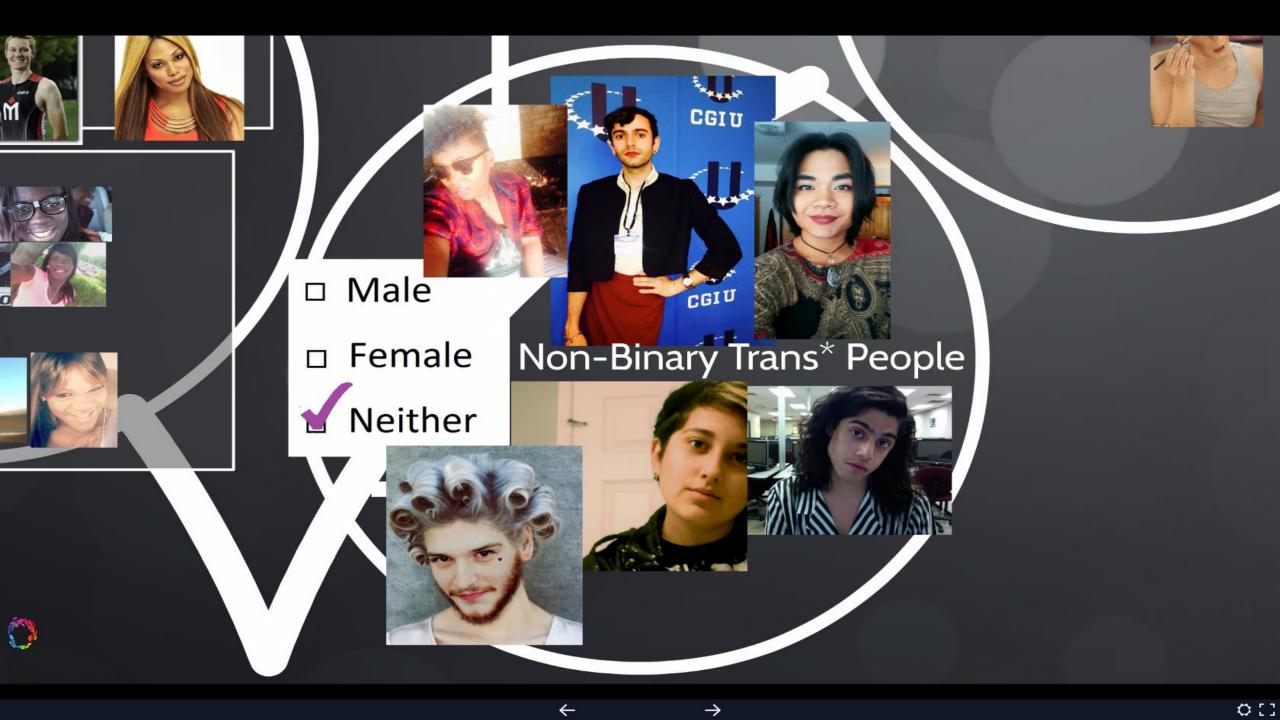
- Hormones
- Surgery

Religious/ Cultural

- Ceremonies
- Clothing









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# Barriers and Challenges

- Levels of transition
- Passing/getting clocked
- Documentation
- Legal vs. Common Law
- Background check



# SYSTEMS OF INEQUALITY: POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS

Transgender and gender non-conforming people are much more likely to be poor or homeless than the average person. This diagram shows how various factors combine into an interlocking system that keep many trans and gender non-conforming people in situations that are vulnerable and unequal.

Can't apply for school or access higher education due to lack of I.D. or because their I.D. doesn't match the name or gender they live as **Drop out** due to harassment, violence and/or discrimination at school

barriers to education

homeless or

at risk for

homelessness

Permanent housing inaccessible due to

housing discrimination in private housing market; low-income housing options are often gender-segregated, and trans people are rejected for placement

**Kicked out of home** because of abuse from parents and foster parents; trans youth are not allowed to express their gender identity in gender-segregated group homes

Temporary housing inaccessible often rejected

inaccessible often rejected from gender-segregated shelters or experience harassment and abuse at shelters Discrimination in hiring and workplace because few laws

prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of gender identity; it's hard to find trans-aware legal assistance

> low income or no income

> inadequate

or no

health care

**Unequal access to benefits** 

because benefit applications require I.D. which may show an incorrect name or gender; if cut off from welfare illegally, it's hard to find trans-aware legal assistance

> Can't apply for jobs or access good employment due to lack of I.D. or because their I.D. doesn't match the name or gender they live as

**Persistent and severe medical problems:** transphobic violence leads to increased mental health and medical problems.

No access to health care:

trans people are often denied all treatment or are afraid to seek care due to past mistreatment

Trans-specific physical and mental health care needs are

often not provided or covered even if insured; shortage of knowledgeable health care professionals who can provide trans-specific care

Bias, discrimination and ignorance in medicine: inappropriate and

harmful treatment, including institutionalization and damaging, incompetent medical procedures

SYLVIA RIVERA

LAW PROJECT

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212.337.8550

# SYSTEMS OF INEQUALITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This diagram illustrates how overpolicing and profiling of low income people and of trans and gender non-conforming people intersect, producing a far higher risk than average of imprisonment, police harassment, and violence for low income trans people.

Subject to **profiling and harassment**; excessive police presence in poor communities; increased exposure to police

Charged with survival crimes (sex work, drugs, theft, etc.) due to lack of access to gainful employment or education

Charged with "Quality of Life" crimes like sleeping outside, turnstile jumping, loitering, etc. due to lack of resources (housing, money)

criminalization of poor and homeless people

criminalization of trans people False arrests for using the **"wrong" bathroom** 

False arrests for **lack of proper identity documents** (by INS, police, etc.)

,

Trans women are often **falsely arrested for soliciting** just for being transgender

Low-income trans people are exposed to arrest, police harassment, incarceration and violence far more than the average person



Trans people suffer additional gender-related harms while in custody of the criminal justice system

Isolated and/or subjected to **increased sexual violence**, **harassment**, **and abuse** at the hands of prisoners and corrections facility staff.

Gender-segregated arrest procedures (searches, holding cells, policies and procedures, etc.) do not accommodate trans people. Low-income transpeople are especially targeted due to lack of access to health care that would help them "pass" as non-trans people, as well as surgical procedures, and are commonly misclassified by arresting officers as "male" or "female" based on their appearance or whether they've had genital surgery.

Denied access to hormones and other trans-specific health care while incarcerated. Forced to change gendered characteristics of appearance in prison (made to cut hair, give up prosthetics, clothing). This results in mental anguish and increased exposure to harassment and violence because appearance may conform even less to gender identity.

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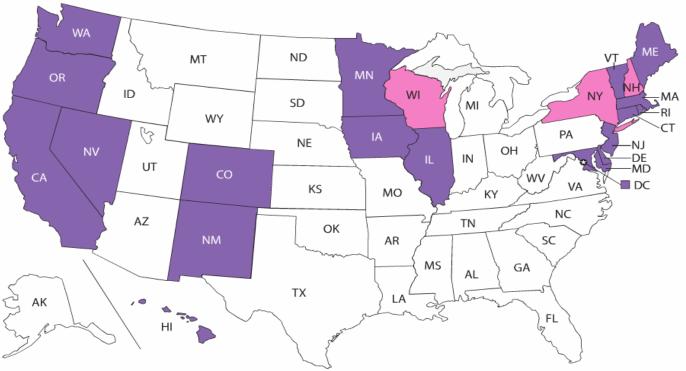
info@srlp.org

212.337.8550



## State Nondiscrimination Laws in the U.S.

This map was last updated on May 21, 2014



States banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression (18 states and the District of Columbia)
Minnesota (1993); Rhode Island (1995, 2001)¹; New Mexico (2003); California (1992, 2003)¹; District of Columbia (1977, 2005)¹; Illinois (2005); Maine (2005);
Hawaii (1991, 2005, 2006, 2011)²; New Jersey (1992, 2006)¹; Washington (2006); Iowa (2007); Oregon (2007); Vermont (1992, 2007)¹; Colorado (2007);
Connecticut (1991, 2011)¹; Nevada (1999, 2011)¹; Massachusetts (1989, 2011)¹; Delaware (2009, 2013)¹; Maryland (2001, 2014)¹

Laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation (3 states) Wisconsin (1982); New Hampshire (1997); New York (2002)

<sup>1</sup>California, Connecticut, Delaware, DC, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Nevada, Rhode Island and Vermont first passed sexual orientation nondiscrimination laws, then later passed gender identity/expression laws.

<sup>2</sup>In 1991, Hawaii enacted a law prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in employment. In 2005, it enacted a law prohibiting sexual orientation and gender identity/expression discrimination in housing. In 2006, public accommodations protections were added for sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. In 2011, gender identity was added to the employment discrimination law.









# Gender Normative Privilege

- My validity as a man/woman is not based on how much surgery I have had or how well I "pass" as a readable man or woman.
- When I start dating someone, I do not have to worry that they will not be able to deal with my parts, or that being with me will cause my partner to question his or her own sexual orientation.
- When I go to the gym or the public pool, I can use the shower and change clothes without concern for my safety.
- If I go to the emergency room, I do not have to worry that my gender will keep me from receiving appropriate treatment, or that all of my medical issues will be seen as a result of my gender.





## How to be an Ally

"Love is an action, never simply a feeling." ~bell hooks

#### Discuss!

- What is an ally?
- How is being an ally more about actions than feelings?





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## Clues and Cues of Safety

- 1. Climate
- 2. Language
  - Spoken
  - Written
- 3. Visual



✓ What clues and cues does our agency have in place to create an LGBTQ Welcoming Environment?

© Transgender Economic Empowerment Project/ TEEP, at north reserved





# Offensive Terminology

- It
- Shim
- Tranny
- Transvestite
- He-she
- Hermaphrodite
- Shemale





# Avoid:

"Do you have a girlfriend/boyfriend/wife/husband?"

Mrs., Mr., Miss, Ms., Man, Buddy, etc...









Wel

## Welcoming Environment Clues & Cues

- Generally:
- Use gender neutral language on intake forms:
  - Partner rather than boyfriend, husband
  - They, rather than he or she
  - Person rather than man, woman
  - Relationship status rather than marital status
  - Parent or Guardian, rather than Mother, Father
  - Intimate Partner Violence vs. Domestic Violence
  - Ask, "What is your preferred gender pronoun?"
  - Provide gender neutral or single use restrooms.

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## Important Info!

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WHEN USING RESTROOMS

In California, business establishments, non-profits, and government agencies that serve the public cannot discriminate based on someone's gender identity or gender expression.\*



#### THIS INCLUDES:

- Stopping you from using a restroom or other sex-segregated facility that matches your gender identity.
- Asking you to provide ID to prove your gender in order to use a restroom or other sex-segregated facility, such as a dressing room or gym locker room.

Show this card if you think you are being discriminated against.

\* Cal. Civ. Code § 51(b)







### Let's Review:

- 1. Don't make assumptions about peoples identity
- 2. Do not assume that someone who is transgender is also lesbian, gay or bisexual, or that the person will transition to become heterosexual.
- 3. When you are not sure what pronoun to use stick to the persons first name or "they"
- 4. When relevant it's ok to ask a persons "preferred" name and/or pronoun-never use "real name"
- 5. If you make a mistake on the pronounacknowledge the mistake-apologize-be honest about your familiarity-let the person know that moving forward you will use the preferred pronoun

Never ask transor what their ge every situation.
 When you lead

do not assume i discussions abo relatively recent have dealt with at great persona

trust that some

consideration.



### eview:

about peoples identity neone who is , gay or bisexual, or that o become heterosexual. what pronoun to use ame or ''they'' ask a persons pronoun-never use ''real

n the pronounapologize-be honest the person know that se the preferred pronoun

## Let's Review:

- 1. Never ask transgender people about how they have sex or what their genitals look like. This is inappropriate in every situation.
- 2. When you learn about someone's transgender identity, do not assume that it is a fad or trend. While public discussions about transgender and transsexuality are a relatively recent phenomenon, most transgender people have dealt with their gender identity for many years, often at great personal and professional cost. It is important to trust that someone's decision to present themselves as gender diverse is not made lightly or without due consideration.

- validate peoples gender ex refer to a trans person by the person's gender identity.
- 3. Never use words such as "it referring to someone who is t 4. Use non-gender specific lar anyone", "Are you in a commit "Do you have a boyfriend/girl Use "partner" or "significant of



Let's Review: V

- <sup>1</sup> Education for managemer
- 2. Notifying co-workers and
- 3. Ensure privacy-treat a trar confidential
- 4. Changes in appearance ar license, passport, etc.
- 5. Dress code applies consist











#### LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER

#### TRANSGENDER ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROJECT Gender Identity Worksheet

Chaose one of the following words to match each definition below:

| Choose                     | one of | f the following words to match each definition below:                                                                                                                      |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Cross-dresser              | A      | A term for people whose gender identity, expression or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth.                             |  |  |  |
| Drag Queen                 | В      | A term used for people who are born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy and/or chromosome pattern that does not seem to fit typical definitions of male or female.       |  |  |  |
| Transgender Man<br>(FTM)   | С      | A term for people who dress in clothing traditionally or stereotypically worn by the other sex, but who generally have no intent to live full-time as the other gender.    |  |  |  |
| Transgender Woman<br>(MTF) | D      | A person who transitions from "female-to-male," meaning a person who was assigned female at birth, but identifies and lives as a male.                                     |  |  |  |
| Gender Expression          | E      | How a person represents or expresses one's gender identity to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, voice and body characteristics.                        |  |  |  |
| Transsexual                | F      | Refers to the biological, chromosomal designation of the differences between men and women.                                                                                |  |  |  |
| Intersexed                 | G      | Used to refer to male performers who dress as women for the purpose of entertaining others at bars, clubs, or other events.                                                |  |  |  |
| Sex                        | Н      | A term typically used to describe people whose gender identity is different from their assigned sex at birth who seek to transition from male to female or female to male. |  |  |  |
| Transgender                | 1      | A term used to describe the gender to which one is attracted to. Including, but not limited to, homosexual, heterosexual and bisexual.                                     |  |  |  |
| Gender Identity            | J      | A term for individuals whose gender expression is different from societal expectations related to gender.                                                                  |  |  |  |
| Sexual Orientation         | K      | A person who transitions from "male-to-female," meaning a person who was assigned male at birth, but identifies and lives as a female.                                     |  |  |  |
| Gender Non-<br>conforming  | L      | An individual's internal sense of being male, female, or something else.                                                                                                   |  |  |  |











#### LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER

### TRANSGENDER ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROJECT Gender Identity Worksheet

#### Answer Key

| Cross-dresser            | С | A | A term for people whose gender identity, expression or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth.                             |
|--------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Transgender              | Α | I | A term used to describe the gender to which one is attracted to. Including, but not limited to, straight, gay, lesbian and bisexual.                                       |
| Gender Identity          | L | J | A term for individuals whose gender expression is different from societal expectations related to gender.                                                                  |
| Sexual Orientation       | 1 | K | A person who transitions from "male-to-female," meaning a person who was assigned male at birth, but identifies and lives as a female.                                     |
| Gender Non-conforming    | J | L | An individual's internal sense of being male, female, or something else.                                                                                                   |









## Important Note

NOT an exhaustive list.

Respect how people self-identify, however that may be!

....queer, MSM, WSW, genderqueer, twospirit, pansexual, etc...







