

HOW TO BE AN ALLY

to the transgender community

"First, do no harm."

Nobody likes accidentally hurting someone's feelings. Here are some simple things you can do to make sure you are respecting the people around you. Check your assumptions & consider the following common courtesy guidelines:

- Refer to someone as the gender they are presenting in that moment, or gender-neutrally using their chosen name, until you can...
- politely ascertain the properly gendered (or ungendered) language the person prefers.
- It's okay to politely ask for the person's preferred pronouns, while...
- it is never polite to ask strangers about their genitals or medications or surgeries, because...
- some things are private, and that's okay. Respect that. Remember...
- not everyone is available as an encyclopedia of answers for your curiosity; ask first. And...
- if you've made a mistake in your assumptions, apologize and move on, always....
- making the effort to respect their identity first and foremost in your interactions.

Thanks!

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Be a gender justice superhero!

Make positive change, if the other things come easy or you happen to find yourself in a position of power in our society. These are what make a real ally:

- Do the basic considerate stuff, consistently. Be kind.
- Never stop learning, and share what you know
- Don't tolerate disrespectful jokes or insensitive language.
- Support political action that increases awareness of and protects the rights and safety of gender minorities.



ally -
someone who supports the rights of other groups of people.



“ I'm learning as I go about the people around me - always asking as necessary. Remembering to use proper pronouns is still difficult, but I do believe it is necessary. ”

-Helen R.

