

# Words that are **TRANSPHOBIC** and **WHY**

Transphobia: The fear or hatred of transgender people or people who are perceived as not meeting society's expectations around gender roles, identities, and presentations. Transphobia is closely linked with homophobia and biphobia.

## **You're such a Tranny.**

Whether or not someone identifies as Trans, calling them a "Tranny" can be extremely offensive. This may be a term that people within the community use and reclaim for themselves, but it should not be used as a joke or without consent.

## **That person doesn't really look like a man/woman.**

What does it mean to look like a man or a woman? There are no set criteria. It also should not be assumed that all Trans men strive to be masculine or that all Trans women want to be feminine, or that all Trans people want to look like men or women. Gender presentation is fluid and distinct from gender identity, and all forms of gender expression deserve affirmation.

## **Why would you transition if you're going to be gay?**

Gender identity and sexual orientation are two separate aspects of one's identity. This question demonstrates how heterosexuality is more valued in our society, and reinforces homophobia and heterosexism.

## **What is your REAL name? I mean the one you were given at birth.**

This implies the person's gender identity and chosen name are not "real" and perpetuates the idea of Trans people as deceptive. It removes agency and any right to make decisions for themselves, and is incredibly invalidating. It presumes a right to intimate information, disregards privacy, and places Trans lives on public display.

Calling someone "it" or "He-She" is demeaning and does not validate their identity or respect them as a person.

## **Asking others about Transperson's identity, or offering information about someone.**

Asking someone about another person's identity is inappropriate. Ask yourself why you want to know. If you are concerned about using the person's preferred pronouns, ask them directly.

## **Using the wrong pronouns or making assumptions about others' gender identities.**

It is vital that we respect the names and pronouns that people prefer. It is impossible to know without asking. If you are not sure, ask: "What are your preferred pronouns?"

## **What are you REALLY? Have you had surgery? If not then you're not really a \_\_\_\_\_.**

Asking anyone personal questions about their bodies and/or surgeries is invasive and inappropriate. We don't ask non-Trans people what is under their clothes; we shouldn't ask Trans people either.

For more information  
contact the UC Davis LGBT  
Resource Center

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