Trans Terms

Trans, Trans*, or Transgender People
- An umbrella term for individuals whose gender identity and/or expression is different from the gender assigned to them at birth.
- Trans people include transsexuals; individuals who cross-dress or who present androgynously; agender, demigender, and genderqueer individuals; and others who cross or go beyond traditional gender categories.

Transsexual People
- Individuals who identify with the “opposite” gender extreme. Transsexual people often undergo hormone treatments and gender-affirming surgeries to align their anatomy with their core identity, but not all desire or are able to do so.
  - **Trans Women:** Male-to-female (MTF) transsexual people or transsexual women -- individuals assigned male at birth who identify as female.
  - **Trans Men:** Female-to-male (FTM) transsexual people or transsexual men.

Non-Binary Trans and Gender-Nonconforming People
- General terms for individuals who do not fit into traditional “male” and “female” gender categories.
- Includes individuals who identify as agender, bigender, gender fluid, genderqueer, and various other genders.
- They do not always identify as transgender.

Some Non-Binary Identities
- **Agender Individuals:** People who identify as genderless or gender-neutral.
- **Demigender Individuals:** People who identify somewhere between being agender and having a gender.
- **Genderqueer Individuals:** People who identify as neither male nor female (but as a third gender or as gender fluid) as both male and female, or as somewhere in between.

Cis or Cisgender People
- Individuals who identify with the gender that was assigned to them at birth (i.e., people who are not transgender).

Cissexism or Genderism
- The societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that privilege cis people and subordinate and disparage trans and gender-nonconforming people.

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Cisgender Privilege Checklist

If I am not or not perceived as trans or gender nonconforming:

- I am not asked what my genitals look like or how I have sex.
- I am not excluded from events that are explicitly “men only” or “women only.”
- I do not have to hear “so have you had the surgery?” or “oh, so you’re really a [incorrect gender]?” each time I come out to someone.
- I can always find my gender on forms.
- I can reasonably assume that my ability to acquire a job, rent an apartment, or secure a loan will not be denied on the basis of my gender identity/expression.
- I am not disrespected by people using incorrect pronouns even after I have corrected them.
- I do not have to worry about experiencing harassment or violence in a bathroom or locker room because of my gender identity/expression.
- I can assume that everyone I encounter will understand my identity, and not think I am confused, misled, or hell-bound when I come out to them.
- I have the ability to walk through the world and generally blend-in, not being constantly stared or gawked at, whispered about, pointed at, or laughed at because of my gender identity/expression.
- I do not have to worry that a sexual partner will reject me because of my anatomy.
- I do not have to worry that I may cause a sexual partner to questions his/her own sexual orientation by having sex with me.
- I do not have to worry that my gender will stop me from receiving proper medical treatment.
- I am not required to undergo an extensive psychological evaluation in order to receive necessary medical care.
- I am not asked what my “real name” or birth name is.
- I do not face a struggle to be called by my chosen name instead of my birth name.
- I do not have to choose between being invisible (“passing”) or being “othered” and/or tokenized based on my gender.
- I do not have worry about gay men and lesbians excluding me from our movement.
- Films and television shows accurately depict people of my gender, and my identity is not used as a source of drama or as the punch line for a joke.
- I am able to purchase clothes that match my gender identity without being refused service.
- I am not treated as a sexual novelty or fetish by a sexual partner.