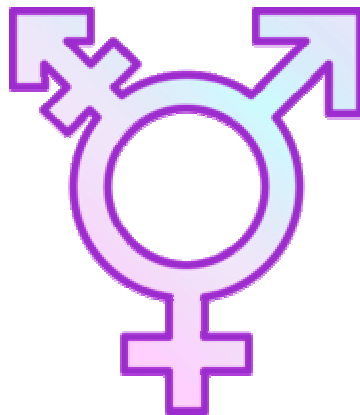


Families in Transition: Transgender Youth in Context

*Therapeutic Conversations 9
Vancouver, May 2010*

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International Bill of Gender Rights

- ♀ The Right To Define Gender Identity
- ♀ The Right To Free Expression Of Gender Identity
- ♀ The Right To Secure And Retain Employment And To Receive Just Compensation
- ♀ The Right Of Access To Gendered Space And Participation In Gendered Activity
- ♀ The Right To Control And Change One's Own Body
- ♀ The Right To Competent Medical And Professional Care
- ♀ The Right To Freedom From Psychiatric Diagnosis Or Treatment
- ♀ The Right To Sexual Expression
- ♀ The Right To Form Committed, Loving Relationships & Enter Into Marital Contracts
- ♀ The Right To Conceive, Bear, Or Adopt Children
- ♀ The Right To Nurture & Have Custody Of Children & To Exercise Parental Capacity

CISGENDER: 1) First coined in 1995 by a transsexual man named Carl Buijs. Used to de-centralize non-trans identity and expose it as an option rather than the "norm" against which trans people are defined. The cis/trans "distinction" is not about "realness" but about perceptions. Otherwise, gender would be "naturalized" rather than constructed. 2) a person whose self-determination of hir gender is generally validated and upheld by hir society

GENDER BINARY: The system that defines and specifies two distinct, "natural", and opposite genders. These two genders are defined in opposition to each other, such that masculinity and femininity are seen as mutually exclusive. In this system, there is no room for any fluidity or other possibilities.

TRANSGENDER: 1) A broad term used to describe the continuum of people whose gender identity and expression, to varying degrees, does not correspond with their biological sex . 2) a person whose self-determination of hir gender is regularly invalidated/undermined by hir society. *[Insiders may use "trans" or "tranny" as abbreviations]*

TRANSSEXUAL: 1) A person who presents him/herself, and lives as, the gender "opposite" to his/her birth gender. 2) a person whose self-determination of hir sex is invalidated/undermined by legal, political, scientific, medical, & religious. *["trans" and "tranny" are used here, too]*

QUEER: 1) Increasingly used as an umbrella term for GLBT people by authors from non-critical fields. 2) A critique of identities, rather than as an identity constitution of its own, often claimed by youth in resistance to fixed identity categories. Here, it is a signifier that stands against "normal" and is taken up by some individuals who are gender normative and/or who have opposite-sex desires but for whom queer signifies their resistance to other regimes of normativity.

GENDER VARIANT: A term that refers to those expressions of gender (masculinity and femininity) that do not conform to the dominant gender norms of Western culture. Gender variance is often a term used to describe gender non-conforming children.

GENDER NON-CONFORMING: Pertains to people who transcend the conventional definitions of man and woman; anyone who acts or thinks in a manner not socially approved for the

gender assigned at birth. This term is often a preferred term over gender variance for transgender people.

CROSS GENDER: A person who enjoys dressing in clothes appropriate to the so-called "opposite" gender. Cross-dressers have little or no interest in changing gender. Most people who self-identify as cross-dressers are comfortable with this part-time status

GENDERQUEER: A person not accounted for by the gender binary who views the binary system as limiting. Gender queers usually place themselves outside of such a system. May also identify as trans, and/or may also describe themselves as lacking gender entirely.

PACKING: Wearing something (a prosthetic penis or sock, for example) in your pants to make a bulge.

BINDING: Strapping down breasts under your clothes.

T-TIPS

- ♀ Welcome transgender people by being an "out" ally and displaying trans-positive cues in your office
- ♀ Be open to a variety of ways trans youth constitute "family"; or to the possibility that "family" is not a positive reality or metaphor
- ♀ Educate yourself as you would with any cultural constituency
- ♀ Remember to always refer to trans youth by their preferred name & pronoun
- ♀ If you are unsure about a person's gender identity, ask politely for clarification
- ♀ Make sure that using the bathroom is not a challenging or humiliating experience for trans people. Advocate for unisex facilities.
- ♀ Hire trans-identified professional and support staff; supervise trans interns
- ♀ Enforce a policy for addressing anti-trans behavior in your office
 - ♀ Proactively develop trans-inclusive policy & paperwork
 - ♀ Seek culturally specific consultation, training and supervision
 - ♀ Include being trans-competent in professional development plans
- ♀ Do not totalize or reduce clients to being only about [trans]gender
- ♀ Take up a reflexive position that helps you to avoid "othering" and "exoticizing" trans youth and that invites you to ask questions like:
 - ♀ *What unearned privileges do I have based on my position in the gender binary?*
 - ♀ *How do other markers of my social location influence my perspective?*
 - ♀ *What have I learned from traditional psychological/systemic theories that are not inclusive of trans experiences?*

♀ *How might I be touched or transformed by my relationship with this youth's/family's experience in a way that changes how I think about and act on matters of gender and sexuality?*

♀ Without ignoring problems, balance your practice with honoring of courage, resilience, etc. that your clients demonstrate in their resistance to the policing of their gender

♀ Locate the problem within the larger socio-cultural context

♀ Embrace a sex-positive framework

CISGENDER PRIVILEGE

[Adapted from: <http://takesupspace.wordpress.com/cis-privilege-checklist/>]

1. I expect non-discrimination acts that apply to me to cover the most prevalent vectors of discrimination against me. I expect laws banning the creation of a hostile work environment will ban the use of offensive language about me.
2. I expect my government-issued identification to accurately represent who I am.
3. I expect my private medical information to remain private if I am attending to non-healthcare-related government services, or if I am involved in a lawsuit/criminal investigation that does not involve healthcare.
4. I expect access to healthcare.
 - ✓ I cannot be denied health insurance on the basis of my gender.
 - ✓ Treatments which permanently or semi-permanently change my body are available to me immediately, based on my informed consent, ability to pay, and, if applicable, medical need.
 - ✓ I expect that my access to medical treatment that I need and can afford will not be affected by (among many other things):
 - My sex life and sexually practices
 - The story I tell about my condition
 - The length of time I have wanted treatment
 - My definition of my gender
 - My age, independent of parental consent
 - The opinion of a therapist
5. I expect my gender to not unduly affect my ability to travel internationally.
6. Information important for me to keep private will not be revealed by:
 - ✓ Pictures from my childhood
 - ✓ My identification
 - ✓ My diploma, transcript, or other educational document
 - ✓ The language used to refer to me
 - ✓ My voice
 - ✓ Seeing me naked; My face and neck
 - ✓ Menstrual blood stains or pregnancy
7. I expect the privacy of my body to be respected. I'm not asked about what my genitals look like, if my breasts are real, what procedures I've had, etc.

8. I expect access to, and fair treatment within, sex segregated facilities
 9. Commonly used terminology that differentiates my gender from other genders/sexes implies that I am normal and are acceptable to me.
 10. I expect no medical evidence to be necessary when changing my name.
 11. I lived my childhood in the gender that I want to have lived it in.
 12. My potential lovers expect my genitals to look roughly similar to the way they do, and have accepted that before coming to bed with me.
 13. I expect to be able to shower at public facilities such as gyms and pools.
 14. If someone else thinks I'm in the wrong bathroom, I am in no danger.
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RESOURCES

Feature Films w/Trans Themes & Characters

<i>Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert</i>	<i>Hedwig and the Angry Inch</i>
<i>Ballad of Little Jo</i>	<i>Ma Vie en Rose</i>
<i>Boys Don't Cry</i>	<i>Soldier's Girl</i>
<i>The Crying Game</i>	<i>Transamerica</i>
<i>Normal</i>	<i>Better than Chocolate</i>

Transgender Documentaries

<i>Almost Myself</i>	<i>Paris is Burning</i>
<i>Beautiful Daughters</i>	<i>Southern Comfort</i>
<i>Boy I Am</i>	<i>TransAmazon</i>
<i>Changing Sexes: MtF and FtM</i>	<i>Transgeneration</i>
<i>Funny Kinda Guy</i>	<i>Transparent</i>
<i>Gender Rebel</i>	<i>Transgender Path</i>
<i>Just Call Me Kade</i>	<i>100% Human</i>
<i>No Dumb Questions</i>	<i>Girl Inside</i>

Websites

http://www.glsen.org	http://www.advocatesforyouth.org
www.ftminfo.net	www.trans-health.com
www.gender.org	www.vch.ca/transhealth
www.ifge.org	www.wpath.org
http://www.transgenderyouth.org	http://www.genderadvocates.org
http://www.imatyfa.org/	http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org

Books

Transgender Nation by Gordene Olga MacKenzie
Call Me Kate: The Story of Katherine Marlowe, a Transexual by Nelson
Trans Liberation : Beyond Pink or Blue by Leslie Feinberg
Transgender Warriors : Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman by Leslie Feinberg
Sex Changes : The Politics of Transgenderism by Pat Califia
Read My Lips : Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender by Riki Anne Wilchins
Transforming Families: Real Stories About Transgendered Loved Ones by Mary Boenke
The Last Time I Wore a Dress by Daphne Scholinski, Jane Meredith Adams
Stone Butch Blues by Leslie Feinberg
Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks & Other Outlaws by Kate Bornstein
Pomosexuals: Challenging Assumptions about Gender & Sexuality by Carol Queen
My Gender Workbook by Kate Bornstein

Books for Professionals

Transgender Emergence: Therapeutic Guidelines for Working With Gender-Variant People and Their Families by Arlene Lev
Gender Loving Care: A Guide to Counseling Gender-Variant Clients by Randi Ettner
Transgender Care: Recommended Guidelines, Practical Information, and Personal Accounts by Gianna E. Israel
Feeling Queer or Queer Feelings? Counseling Sexual Cultures & Identities by Lyndsey Moon