

How to be an Trans* Positive Ally

Trans* positive tips!

Respect someone's gender identity.

Address the individual as they wish to be addressed, using the name and the pronouns they prefer. Also remember that not all gender non-conforming people identify as transgender, some may identify as Genderqueer, androgynous, or other labels – respect their choice.

(Example: Jane has been your friend since grade school. However, Jane would like you to now use the name Jimmy and male pronouns.)

Use their preferred name and pronouns and if you make a mistake don't over apologize just follow the mistake with the correct name or pronoun and move on.

Respect individuals' privacy.

Many transgender people are not “out” about their transgender status **do not out them.**

When a transgender person tells you of their transgender status they are trusting you with personal information, to tell others without their approval of it is a betrayal of their trust. No transgender person is obligated to reveal their status as transgender; keeping one's trans-status to one's self is not hiding anything. Do not refer to people in the past tense unless you are sure you can use their current name and pronoun, when in doubt, bring it all to the present tense.

Do not make a transgender person feel fake

Do not refer or compliment a transgender person for looking like a ‘real man’ or a ‘real woman’ or say things like ‘you look so natural’. Though you may mean well using terms ‘real’ or ‘natural’ can make transgender people feel or think you believe them to be fake or unnatural.

Good rule of thumb: Do not make any comments or compliments to a transgender person that you wouldn't also make to a non-transgendered person.

Do not assume transgender people have a choice.

Do not assume someone is transgender by choice. Although transpeople must make a decision to go through hormone replacement therapy or seek medical transitioning they did not choose to be transgender.

Do not assume that transgender people are queer or kinky.

Do not assume that a transgender person is gay or bisexual, though they are incorporated under the umbrella of LGBTQ many, many transgender people are straight. Do not assume that a transgender person is promiscuous or fetishistic. **Gender identity is not the same as sexuality.**

Don't not ask about their 'real name' or 'what their genitals look like'.

