

Singing Songs & Saving Lives

*affirming LGBTQ+ singers in the
choral context*

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Art by Colin Laurel for the Trans Day
of Resilience Project, 2017. tdor.co

TWO CLAPS (TWICE)

what's an adjective to describe something that you love about yourself?



Outline

- 1) Who ARE they
- 2) Commitment, Disclaimer, Values
- 3) Data!
- 4) A lil bit of language
 - a) Pronouns & neopronouns
- 5) Policies & Procedures



who ARE they



Commitment, Disclaimer, Values



01 Ask Questions!

- **Your Commitment:** Be brave, use what you know
- **My Commitment:** Assume best intent, gently reframe when necessary

Commitment, Disclaimer, Values



02 Disclaimer about Language

*“But **gender** and **identity**, like gravity and breathing, are really complicated phenomena when you start taking them apart and breaking them down.”*

– **Susan Stryker**, *Transgender History: Roots of Today’s Revolution*

Commitment, Disclaimer, Values



03 Values: Self-Determination

*When people tell us who they are, we believe them
without qualification or reservation*

04 Values: Trauma-Informed Care

“What you change, changes you”

– **Octavia Butler**, *“Parable of the Sower”*

Data Spotlight: Youth (Arizona)

71%

In Arizona, 71% of LGBTQ students reported **verbal harassment** and 30% reported **physical harassment** at school based on their sexual orientation in 2017.

Source: *GLSEN School Climate Survey, 2017*

63%

In Arizona, 63% of transgender students reported being **unable to use the restroom/locker room** that aligned with their gender identity in 2017.

Arizona has seen a number of anti-trans laws proposed in the state legislature in the past several years, including HB 2725 requiring state-issued documents to list only “male” or “female” as sex designations

Source: *GLSEN School Climate Survey, 2017*

Data Spotlight: Youth (National)

50%

As many as 50% of trans adolescents report that they have attempted suicide in their lifetimes. Suicideality varies drastically by gender identity.

Source: *Pediatrics: The Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*, 2018.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, trans adolescents who lived in homes where their names and pronouns were respected reported **50% fewer instances of suicideality**. Arizona students who could identify just one adult in their school building who was affirming of their gender identity and/or sexual orientation reported **50% fewer instances of suicidality**.

Source: *The Trevor Project National LGBTQ Mental Health Survey 2021, and the GLSEN School Climate Survey, 2017*

After adjusting for potential confounders, accessing GAH during early adolescence, late adolescence, or adulthood was associated with **lower odds of past-year suicidal ideation** when compared to desiring but never accessing GAH. In post hoc analyses, access to GAH during adolescence (ages 14–17) was associated with **lower odds of past-year suicidal ideation** when compared to accessing GAH during adulthood.

Source: Turban, Jack. “Access to gender-affirming hormones during adolescence and mental health outcomes among transgender adults” *PLOS ONE*, 2022.

Where do I find more data?

- GLSEN School Climate Survey
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Psychological Association
- Transgender Law Center

“

**Just to be able to get up every morning
and live in our skin... transgender
people are very talented. The grace
and dignity to have someone like that
in your space is a gift.**

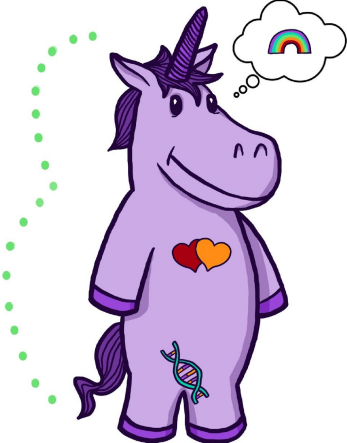
Lindsey Deaton, “Trans Vision and Voice”

Engender: Singing and the Wisdom of Gender Diversity. 2020.

Defining (Some) Terms

The Gender Unicorn

Graphic by:
TSER
Trans Student Educational Resources



Gender Identity

- Female/Woman/Girl
- Male/Man/Boy
- Other Gender(s)

Gender Expression

- Feminine
- Masculine
- Other

Sex Assigned at Birth

- Female
- Male
- Other/Intersex

Physically Attracted to

- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Emotionally Attracted to

- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

To learn more, go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore

01 Gender Identity

One's internal sense of self

01a In Use

- Transgender
- Cisgender
- Nonbinary
- Genderqueer
- Bigender
- Agender

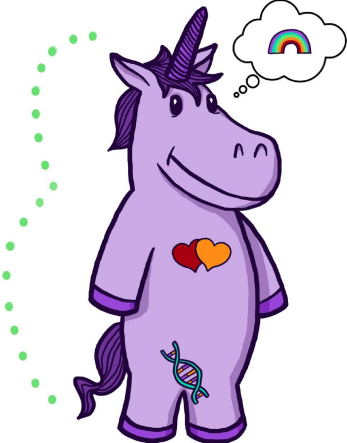
01b Not in Use

- Transgendered
- Transsexual
- Hermaphrodite

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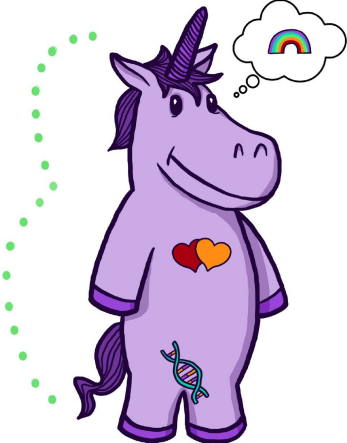
02 Gender Expression

One's external presentation
(clothing, makeup, mannerisms, and more)

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03 Sex Assigned at Birth

The binary category assigned to a baby at birth

03a In Use

- Assigned Male at Birth (AMAB)
- Assigned Female at Birth (AFAB)

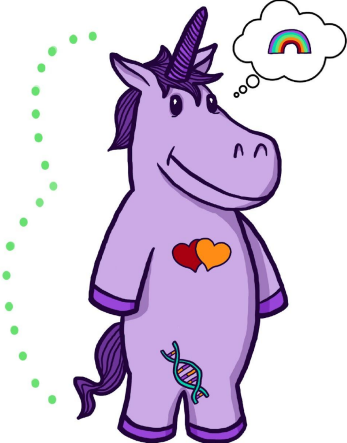
03b Not in Use

- Male to Female (MTF)
- Female to Male (FTM)
- “Biologically a man/woman”
- “Used to be a man/woman”

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04 Sexual Orientation

One's romantic and/or sexual attraction

04a In Use

- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Pansexual
- Asexual
- Aromantic
- Queer

04b Not in Use

- Homosexual

“

In the past decade, our lens in the choral craft around gender has expanded... in its expansion, a lot of it is still within the Eurocentric gaze.

Jace Kaholokula Saplan, “Decolonizing Gender”
Engender: Singing and the Wisdom of Gender Diversity. 2020.

World Gender Customs

Untitled layer

- Muxe or Muxhe (Zapotec of Oaxaca)
- Nadleehi and Dilbaa (Navajo)
- Winkte (Lakota)
- Kathoey (Thailand)
- Fa'afafine (Samoa)
- Calabai, Calalai, and Bissu (Indonesia)
- Waria (Indonesia)
- Fakaleiti (Tonga)
- Mahu (Hawaii)
- Chuckchi (Siberia)
- Ninauposkitzipxpe (Blackfoot)
- Burmesha (Albania)
- Femminiello (Italy)
- Ashtime (Maale, Ethiopia)
- Whakawahine (Maori, New Zealand)
- Quariwarmi (Inca, Peru)
- Mashoga (Kenya, Tanzania)
- Hijra (South Asia)
- Aravani (Tamil Nadu)
- Alyha and Hwame (Mohave)
- Lhamana (Zuni)

This map was created by a user. [Learn how to create your own.](#)

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Keyboard shortcuts

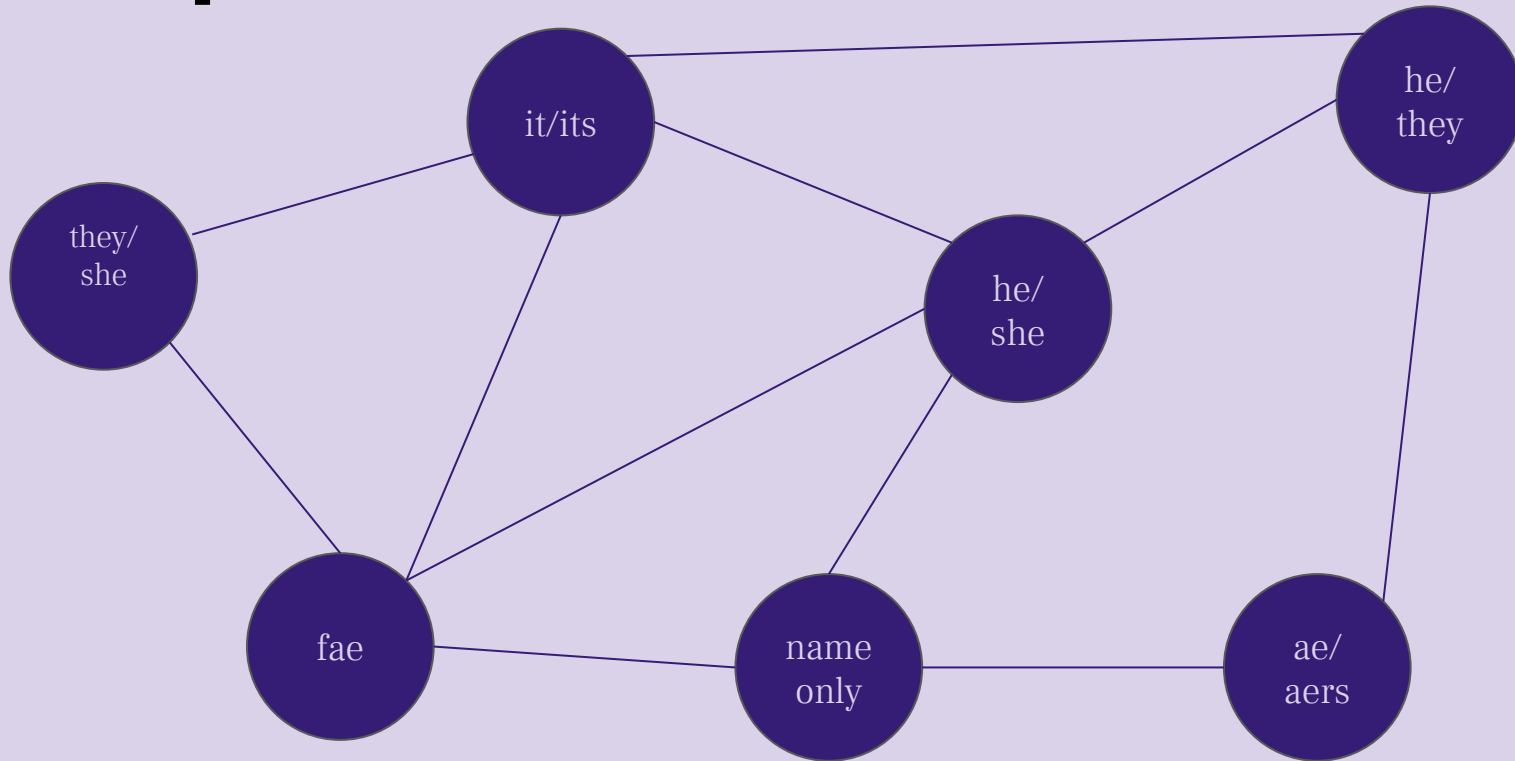
Independent Lens. "A Map of Gender-Diverse Cultures." *PBS*, 2015.

Pronouns

she/her/hers	She is speaking I listened to her . The backpack is hers .
he/him/his	He is speaking. I listened to him . The backpack is his .
they/them/theirs	They are speaking. I listened to them . The backpack is theirs .
ze/zir/zirs	Ze is speaking. I listened to zir . The backpack is zirs .

Adapted from *Trans Student Educational Resources*, <https://transstudent.org>

Neo-pronouns



Gender-Affirming Apparel

01 Concert Attire

- Affordable?
- Gender-affirming options?
- Consider:
 - “concert black”
 - color palette

02 Regular Attire

- **Binders**
 - gc2b transitional apparel
 - origami customs
 - NOT Ace bandages
- **Gaffs**
 - origami customs
 - fairy gaff mother (@stripitback)
 - TuckItUp (@tuckitup)

Policies and Procedures

01 Introductions

- Name
- Pronouns
- Can I use these name/pronouns in front of your peers?
- Can I use these name/pronouns with your family/caregivers?
- Do you want to have a private conversation about your name/pronouns?

02 Other Considerations

- Concert programs & deadnaming
- Travel & rooming
- Signaling
- Repertoire
- Bathrooms
- Voicing

“

It's not about right vs left, rural vs urban... it's just how honest are willing to be about our own humanity as we proceed in our art?

Mari Esabel Valverde, “The Only Honest Option”

Engender: Singing and the Wisdom of Gender Diversity. 2020.

Questions??



Sources & More

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