

“You’re such a Tranny”

Calling someone a Tranny, whether they identify as Trans or not, can be offensive. This may be a term people within the community use for themselves, but should not be as a joke or without a person’s consent.

Using the wrong pronouns or making assumptions about others’ gender identity

It is important to respect the names and pronouns people prefer. If you are not sure, ask: “what are your preferred pronouns?”

Asking others about transperson’s identity or offering information about someone. Inquiring about someone’s identity to someone else is inappropriate. Ask yourself why you want to know. If you are concerned about using the person’s preferred pronouns ask the person directly.

“That person doesn’t really look like a man/woman”

What does a man or woman really look like? There is no one way to look like a man or a woman. It should also not be assumed that all Transmen want or have to strive to be masculine or that Transwomen should be feminine. Gender presentation is fluid and we should support all the ways people choose to present their gender.

“Why would you transition if you are going to be gay?”

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

“What is your REAL Name? I mean the one you were given at birth?”

Asking this question implies that the person’s chosen name and gender identity are not “real.” It is important to respect people’s choices around sharing or not sharing personal information

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

and why

Transphobia: the fear or hatred of transgender people or people who do not meet society’s gender role expectations. Transphobia is closely linked with homophobia & biphobia.

“What are you REALLY? Have you had surgery, if not then you are not really a man/woman.”
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, nor should we ask Trans people. It is important to honor everyone’s gender identity and not question their validity.

**For more information contact the UC Davis LGBT Resource Center
530-752-2452**