ELIMINATING TRANSPHOBIC LANGUAGE

Honky the Goose says Trans Rights

Here are some common mistakes made by cis people:

Binary Language

"men and women", "trans brothers and sisters", "he or she"
Instead: "students and faculty", "trans siblings", "they"

It is important to recognize the existence of non-binary people through including them in our language.

"Biological Sex" Anything

"biologically female" "female body"
Instead: Say the person's gender, disclosing sex assigned at birth is generally none of your business

Sex is not an objective science. We should allow everyone to determine what their bodies mean to them. All women have female bodies. All men have male bodies. All non-binary people have non-binary bodies.

Saying trans folks are female/male bodied undermines our genders and unconsensually categorizes our bodies.

Quantifying Trans People's Gender

"male-identified" "self-identified woman"
Instead: "man", "woman", "non-binary person"

Using "identify" or its variants when talking about a trans person treats their gender as less legitimate than a cis person's gender. Trans people don't just identify as their genders, they are their genders.

Measuring Success by Passing

"I would have never known you were transgender"
Instead: "I love your dress", "You look great today"

Trans people should not be held to cisnormative standards of beauty. A trans person's worth or attractiveness is not based on "looking cis."

Language is not a replacement for other forms of trans community support. But shifting our words is an important step in shifting our ideas and actions.