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This guide will help you cover stories about trans and gender-diverse people respectfully and accurately.

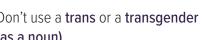
Media Tip Sheet

Discussing Trans and Gender-Diverse People

Guiding Principles

- Reflect the language that people use to talk about their own lived experiences.
- Use the right name and pronouns. This applies to reporting on any time period in a person's life—past or present.
- When it comes to names and pronouns, avoid characterizing them as preferred—they just are.
- Gender identity and sexual orientation are separate. One doesn't tell us anything about the other.
- Every transition is unique and there is no single, linear or "correct" way to transition. So, avoid qualifying transitions with adjectives like a "full" or "complete" transition.
- Take care to not characterize trans people as having a mental disorder, or implying that all trans people experience discomfort with their bodies.
- Define terms that your readers or listeners may not understand. Please see The 519's Glossary of Terms: http://www.the519.org/education-training/glossary
- Don't make any assumptions.

Offensive



Do use a trans person or a transgender person (as an adjective)

Do use a person is transitioning Do use they were assigned female or

Recommended

male at birth

Do use cis or cisgender woman or man

Do respect someone's self-declared pronouns: consider setting an example by introducing yourself and your pronouns

Do use and respect the name someone gives you

Do use photos you were provided

Do use transition-related surgeries, plural where possible, noting that some people use genderconfirming, gender-affirming surgeries or other terms Don't use a **trans** or a **transgender** (as a noun)

Don't use a person is transgendering Don't use they are biologically female or male

Don't use **non-trans** or **real woman** or **man** Don't assume someone's pronouns

Don't imply someone's birth name is their "real" name

Don't use photos without someone's consent Don't use sex change, sex-reassignment surgery (SRS) or gender-reassignment surgery (GRS)

Ask Yourself

Is a person's gender identity and/or sex assigned at birth relevant to your story?

Why are you asking each question in your interview? Do you need to know? Do you need to ask?

Would you ask someone who isn't trans this question?

Don't describe someone as*

tranny MTF/FTM she-male transgendered transvestite pre-op/post-op transgenderism transgenderist

* unless someone uses these or other terms to describe themselves



For more resources

The 519. org/education-training RainbowHealthOntario.ca/resources



