Trans and Nonbinary Awareness in the Classroom
Breaking Down Gender

Gender Identity
Someone's personal sense of their gender
Of being a man, or a woman, or another gender

Gender Expression
How someone expresses their gender - clothes, hair, make up, and some behaviours

Sex
hormones, sex chromosomes, reproductive organs, genitalia
NB: Often determine Assigned Gender At Birth

Attraction ≠ Gender ≠ Sex
And now for some definitions!

**Cisgender:** When a person’s gender identity and the gender they were assigned at birth are the same.

**Transgender:** When a person’s gender identity and the gender they were assigned at birth are not the same.

**Transgender Man:** A person who identifies as male but whose gender was assigned female at birth.

**Transgender Woman:** A person who identifies as female but whose gender was assigned male at birth.

**Non-Binary:** Someone who does not identify as either male or female, can be a different gender, or no gender, or a sense of gender that changes over time.

NB: Non-binary can also be an umbrella term that includes 'genderqueer', 'genderfluid', 'agender', and others.

**Intersex:** Physical sex characteristics that are different from what we usually think of as a typical male or typical female body.

**Gender Dysphoria:** Distress arising from conflicts between a person’s gender identity or expression and their assigned gender/sex (American Psychiatric Association, 2016)

Based in physical characteristics & social gendered experiences

Often a diagnostic term

**Gender Euphoria:** Powerful positive emotional experience related to an individual’s gender identity, gender expression, gendered body and gendered social life.

External, internal or social

Created by and for transgender and gender diverse communities

Centers the joy and affirmation of gender expression
An estimated 1% of the population will experience some form of gender variance. In an Irish context this would mean around 49,000 people. For Trinity's student population, that would be about 180 people, almost enough to fill the Synge Lecture Theatre.

As gender variance becomes more accepted, these numbers have been rising!

Intersex people constitute an estimated 1.7% of the population, which makes being intersex about as common as having red hair (1%-2%).

In Ireland, this means above 78,115 people. In Trinity, it could be almost 355 students- enough to fill Goldsmith Hall.

There's More of Us Than You Think!
Include Trans Students From Day 1

What does this look like in practice?

- Try pins or sharing your own pronouns first - don't begin by putting people on the spot!
- For Class Reps: Often students aren't 'out' to everyone in their lives at once - if there's a difference between the legal and preferred name, ask if you can help with disclosure of which one the student wants to use in the classroom, with parents, lecturers, etc.

but most importantly... be conscious that gender expression changes over time. **Dynamic**, not static!
Considering Nonbinary Students

- Create alternatives to gendered language: first names instead of Mr./Ms. for addressing people, alternatives to "ladies and gentlemen"
- Assumptions of gender based on fashion or physical features may not be accurate
- No nonbinary person is androgynous all the time- again, expression is dynamic
- Asking or assuming gender assigned at birth- why do you need to know? Is it relevant to the conversation?
Curricula/Teaching Materials

- Acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of trans people in your field- role models!
- Correct outdated/exclusive language in learning material, make lecturers aware of changes in gender norms and culture over time
- Avoid gendering bodies and physical characteristics in Medicine and Biology
- In Philosophy, History, and the Arts- ask about the change in gendered structures over time and encourage exploration of gender as a concept
- Language courses - Ask the lecturer that they respect how students want to be referred to in the learning language, especially in heavily gendered languages. Petition for grammatical flexibility in oral exams in particular.
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<td>Get corrected</td>
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<td>Share pronouns</td>
<td>Pronoun circle</td>
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<td>Pronouns in email signature</td>
<td>Inappropriate questions</td>
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<td>Privacy and sharing where appropriate</td>
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<td>Informed consent (i.e. when sharing name changes with others)</td>
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<td>Respect and practice name and pronoun use</td>
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<td>Appropriate questions</td>
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Group Discussion
What We Want YOU to Take Away Today

Trans students deserve the same respect as cis students.

Ask for clarification on a student's personal identity, not education on trans people.

As a fellow student, being informed BEFORE you enter the classroom helps you support your peers. (which is why we welcome you today!)