

Reporting on Trans People 101

Based on a [series of Tweets](#) by [@VanguardVivian](#).

Organized and turned into a PDF by [@duckinator](#).

- Do not use a trans person's former name(s).
- "Assigned male" and "assigned female," not "born male" and "born female."
- Do not ask trans people about their genitals.
- Always use the correct pronouns, even when referring to someone's pre-transition self.
 - "Correct pronouns" means the pronouns *they* consider correct *currently*, regardless of anyone else's thoughts or pronouns they may have used previously.
 - Do not, under any circumstances, mock someone's pronouns.
 - Do not, under any circumstances, claim someone has chosen the "wrong" pronouns for themselves.
 - There *are* pronouns besides the more well-known he/him, she/her, and they/them/their. Use them when appropriate.
 - These include, but are not limited to ze/hir, xie/xir, and ey/em/eir.
 - If the correct pronouns for a given person are not known, use [singular they](#). Do not try to guess their pronouns.
- Focus your questions on how to improve trans people's lives, not on satisfying cis people's nosiness.
- "Trans"/"transgender" is an adjective, not a prefix.
 - This means you should use "trans woman" and "trans man", not "transwoman" and "transman."
 - Do not use phrases like "woman in a man's body" or "man in a woman's body."
- If you're accused of transphobia, do not get defensive.
 - Assume that trans people are correct when we claim transphobia. Try to understand and fix the problem.
- Don't use "women" interchangeably with "cis women."
 - An example of using "women" and "cis women" interchangeably: "Women get pregnant."
- "Trans" means your gender assignment was incorrect. It does not mean you "identify as a gender other than your birth sex."
- There are many genders, not just two. "Opposite gender" does not make sense, due to the gender binary being a fallacy.
- "Cis," Latin for "on this side," means your gender matches the one which you were assigned.
- "Transmisogyny" is oppression specific to trans women.
- "Transphobia" is oppression of all trans people.