

Social Justice Watch 0902

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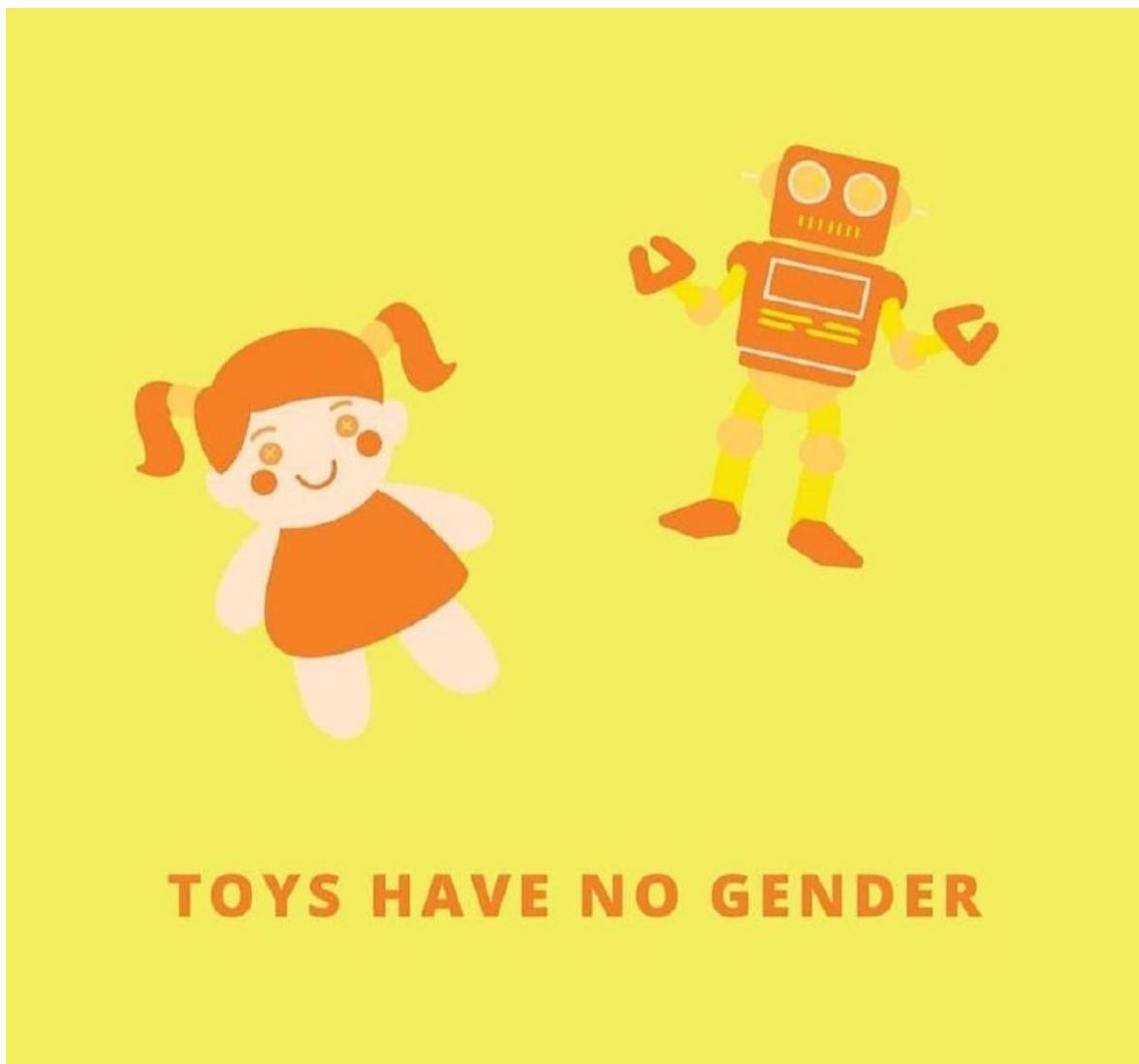




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**Can I use
QUEER?**



Love to All Project™

Origins

The word “queer” originally meant peculiar or odd, with no specific reference to sexuality. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, “queer” was first used to describe homosexuals by the Marquess of Queensbury in 1894. By the early 20th century, the word “queer” meant homosexual, particularly in the United States. It was used as a derogatory slur against homosexuals.



Reclamation

During the Stonewall era of the '60s, gay individuals began to refer to themselves as "queer" as an act of defiance. Later, during the AIDS Crisis of the '80s, the term was once again reclaimed by young LGBT+ activists, identifying themselves in the face of tragedy. In 1990, Queer Nation was founded as an activist organization against anti-gay violence. After the rise of the Internet and social media, "queer" gained popularity among young online LGBT+ communities.



Image of friend group after Stonewall. (Fred W. McDurrah, 1969)

Excerpt from "Queers Read This," pamphlet by Queer Nation



"Being queer is not about a right to privacy; it is about the freedom to be public, to just be who we are. It means everyday fighting oppression; homophobia, racism, misogyny, the bigotry of religious hypocrites, and our own self-hatred... Being queer means leading a different sort of life... It's about being on the margins, defining ourselves... Every one of us is a world of infinite possibilities."



Materials used by the Queer Nation chapter in Houston

Excerpt from "Queers Read This," pamphlet by Queer Nation (cont.)

"Using "queer" is a way of reminding us how we are perceived by the rest of the world. It's a way of telling ourselves we don't have to be witty and charming people who keep our lives discreet and marginalized in the straight world. We use queer as gay men loving lesbians and lesbians loving being queer."



Image of Queer Nation "Kiss-in" (Richard Isaac, 1991)

“Queer” creates more inclusive terminology for LGBTQIA+ people

- “1) It’s gender-neutral.
- 2) It allows us to acknowledge identities left out by “LGBT,” such as intersex people.
- 3) It allows us to include members of the community from cultures that express non-heterosexual, non-cisgender identities with different words and customs.”

Cory Collins of Tolerance.org



Conclusion

While “queer” has been reclaimed mainly by younger generations, it is important to acknowledge its origins. Like any reclaimed slur, this word should only be used by members of the LGBT+ community or when referring to the community.



Image of Queer Nation at Seattle Pride (Richard Isaac, 1992)

Conclusion

For many people, especially older generations, “queer” is an offensive slur. Please show respect for those who may be offended by this language. Take time to educate yourself on LGBT+ history today, especially in acknowledging the accomplishments of BIPOC LGBT+ people.



Image of March to Olympia, WA (Richard Isaac, 1993)

Sources

Research:

Merrill Perlman, "How the Word 'Queer' was Adopted by the LGBT+ Community," Columbia Journalism Review, 2019 (https://www.cjr.org/language_corner/queer.php
<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/is-queer-ok-to-say-heres-why-we-use-it>)

Juliette Rocheleau, "A Former Slur is Reclaimed, and Listeners Have Mixed Feelings," NPR, 2019 (<https://www.npr.org/sections/publiceditor/2019/08/21/752330316/a-former-slur-is-reclaimed-and-listeners-have-mixed-feelings>)

Queer Nation, "Queers Read This," 1990
(<http://www.qrd.org/qrd/misc/text/queers.read.this>)

Images:

(Slide 3) Fred McDurrah's photos, <https://loeildelaphotographie.com/en/fred-w-mcdarrah-pride-photographs-of-stonewall-and-beyond-bb/>

(Slide 4) Public Domain, <http://www.queermusichistory.us/mar2010qn.html> via
WikiMedia

(Slide 5, 9 and 10) Richard Issac's photos, <http://www.rmisaac.com/qn.html>



<https://www.facebook.com/transarmy>



Samuel Sinyangwe ✅
@samswey

▼

Police take more money from people through civil forfeiture than the total value of all property stolen in all the burglaries committed nationwide.

washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2...



Shane ✅ @shaneferro · 2d

If you think looting is bad wait until I tell you about civil forfeiture

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↑ a few recommend channels / bots

Hong Kong has always fought to remember Tiananmen. Now it fights to remember its own trauma. It's only been a year and the wounds are still fresh, but it's already becoming a crime to remember. Lord, have mercy.

<https://lausan.hk/2020/11-articles-voice-of-hongkongers/> source

Lausan

11 articles on revolution in the words of Hongkongers themselves - Lausan
On the one-year anniversary of the Prince Edward MTR attacks, revisit our writing and translating that center the voices of Hongkongers in struggle

"To understand and live in the aftermath of this history are fundamental to building stronger theories and practices of resistance: we can only stand to gain from comparing and borrowing from the experiences and strategies of past struggles." <https://lausan.hk/2020/documenting-chinas-grassroots-uprisings/>
Lausan

Archives of resistance: Documenting China's grassroots uprisings - Lausan
Grassroots media play a crucial role in documenting the advent of capitalism in China and the increasing mobilizations against government power by the

working class.

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