

**TRANSGENDER DAY
OF REMEMBRANCE
RESOURCE PACK**

ABOUT

Transgender Day of Remembrance is observed in late November in recognition of the 1998 murder of Rita Hester. Rita was a highly visible member of the transgender community in her native Boston, MA where she worked locally on education around transgender issues. On Saturday, Nov. 28, Rita was stabbed 20 times in her apartment. A neighbour called the police, and Rita was rushed to the hospital. She passed away from cardiac arrest only moments after being admitted. Almost two decades later, police still have not found Rita's murderer (or murderers). In 1999, one year after Rita's murder, advocate and writer Gwendolyn Ann Smith coordinated a vigil in Rita's honour. The vigil commemorated not only Rita, but all who were tragically lost to anti-transgender violence.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Trans

The term trans includes people who identify as transgender or transexual. Transgender people have a gender identity or gender expression that differs to the one assigned at birth. The term transexual is sometimes used if the person wants medical help to transition from one sex to another.

Queer

Queer is being reclaimed by some as a self-affirming umbrella term, especially among those who consider other labels restrictive. Some still believe it's a homophobic slur, so it's always best to ask or wait for the person whom you're speaking with to use it.

Questioning

An individual who/ or time when someone is unsure about or exploring their own sexual orientation or gender identity.

Intersex

When people are born with genitals, gonads, and/or chromosomes that do not match up exactly with male or female. Intersex individuals can have any romantic/sexual orientation and can have any gender identification

Agender

An individual with no, or very little, connection to the traditional system of gender and who sees themselves as existing without gender. Can also be referred to as 'Gender Neutral'

2-spirit

The term Two Spirit is an umbrella term across Native American and First Nations cultures for a person who embodies both male and female spirits within them.

Androgynous

A gender expression that has elements of both masculinity and femininity.

Bigender

An individual who fluctuates between traditionally 'woman' and 'man' gender based behaviour and identities.

Cisgender

An individual whos assigned sex at birth is on the same side as their gender identity (e.g., someone who was assigned male at birth, and identifies as a man). The word cisgender can also be shortened to "cis."

Femme

An individual who identifies themselves as feminine, whether physically, mentally or emotionally. Often used to refer to a feminine presenting queer woman or people.

Fluid/Fluidity

Generally with another term attached, like "gender fluid" or fluid sexuality, fluid(ity) describes an identity that may change or shift over time between or within the mix of the options available (e.g., man and woman, bi and straight).

Genderqueer

An umbrella term for many gender non-conforming or non-binary identities (e.g., agender, bigender, genderfluid).

Non-Binary

The idea that there are only 2 genders is sometimes referred to as a gender binary. Non-binary is a term people use to describe genders that don't fall into either male or female.

Transition / Transitioning

The process of a transgender person changing aspects of themselves (e.g., their appearance, name, pronouns, or making physical changes to their body) to be more congruent with the gender they know themselves to be (as opposed to the gender they lived as pre-transitioning).

PRONOUNS

What is a pronoun?

Pronouns are used in place of a proper noun, for example someone's name.. We use pronouns mostly when referring to someone without using their name. For example: Alex is working from home today. She will respond if you send her an e-mail. The pronouns in this sentence are she/her.

Why are pronouns important?

Often, people make assumptions about the gender of another person based on their appearance or name. They then apply those assumptions to the pronouns they use to refer to that person. For gender non-conforming, non-binary and transgender people, more commonly used pronouns such as he/him or she/her may not fit with their own gender identity and being referred to using these pronouns can cause stress and anxiety. It's important we give people the opportunity to state the pronoun that they identify with and would like to be used when referring to them.

Commonly used pronouns.

- He/Him/his/himself
- She/Her/hers/herself
- They/Them/theirs
- Ze/Hir

Some people prefer not to use pronouns at all and instead may prefer for you to just use their name. Sources: LGBT Life Centre Ways to ask.

- "What pronouns do you use?"
- "What pronouns would you like me to use?"

Ways to share.

- "I'm Tim and my pronouns are he/him."
- "I prefer they/them"

If you call someone by the wrong pronoun, the best thing to do is to say something right away. For example "So sorry, I meant (insert pronoun)".

If you are in a group of people, it may be better to apologise in private later. In each case you should ensure that use the correct pronoun the next time.

THINGS TO WATCH

PARIS IS BURNING

It changed the game for LGBTQ+ individuals regarding their visibility in the mainstream. Focusing on the drag ball scene of Manhattan in the 1970s, which was a major part of Black and Latinx queer, male culture for decades, *Paris Is Burning* unapologetically told the story of a subculture that continues to blossom today, even if it's not exactly underground like it once was.

The characters were not only some of the first unapologetically trans on the big screen but also generally the first openly queer figures the mainstream discussed without the usual caveats that accompanied such topics.

POSE

American drama television series about New York City's African-American and Latino LGBTQ and gender-nonconforming ballroom culture scene in the 1980s. It's an emotional roller coaster with plenty of glitter and lots of voguing.

It will go down in television history for assembling the largest cast of transgender actors to appear as series regulars on a scripted show.

TANGERINE

The stories of Black, trans sex workers are especially vital to honor and uplift when considering the violence undergirding transphobia.

Sean Baker's micro-budget buddy comedy *Tangerine* caused a major stir following the reveal that the film was shot on iPhone 5s, something the film-maker had managed to keep a secret up until its world premiere. But *Tangerine* is also vital for another, arguably more important, reason: it represents a major leap for transgender people on film. The story follows a transgender sex worker who discovers her boyfriend and pimp has been cheating on her.

BOYS DON'T CRY

Trans women became more popular as subjects of feature films and documentaries throughout the 1990s, but it was not until the end of the decade that a major picture centred around a trans man. Based on the true story of Brandon Teena, raped and murdered in Humboldt, Nebraska in December 1993 after two acquaintances discovered that he was trans, *Boys Don't Cry* starred Oscar-winner Hilary Swank as Brandon, whose struggle to fit in with the local guys while keeping his gender identity secret results in tragedy, for which his community blames him.

ROMEOS

Romeos is 2011 German tragicomedy film about a transgender man who is also gay – something we often don't get to see in films.

It revolves around the romantic relationship between Lukas, a 20-year-old gay trans man, and a cisgender gay man named Fabio. Lukas is in the process of transitioning from female to male. After joining the gay scene in Cologne, Lukas meets an attractive bad boy named Fabio and an attraction develops between the two men. Lukas is faced with the choice of revealing his identity to Fabio and risking losing everything.

THINGS TO READ

BECOMING A VISIBLE MAN

Written by a leading activist in the transgender movement, *Becoming a Visible Man* is an artful and compelling inquiry into the politics of gender. Jamison Green combines candid autobiography with informed analysis to offer unique insight into the multiple challenges of the female-to-male transsexual experience, ranging from encounters with prejudice and strained relationships with family to the development of an FTM community and the realities of surgical sex reassignment.

READ MY LIPS

Read My Lips burst on the scene in 1997 without precedent. It was unique, radical, endearing, outrageous, and very funny. It stood the orthodox academic and medical theories about transsexuals on their heads. At last, a trans-intellectual built a theoretical foundation of transgenderism in accessible language, and, most importantly, laid out the tools to fight back against gender oppression. Now re-published as a canon of trans-writing—a book that has influenced queer academics and genderqueer folk everywhere for more than fifteen years—its message remains radical.

THE FIRST MAN-MADE MAN

In the 1920s when Laura Dillon felt like a man trapped in a woman's body, there were no words to describe her condition; *transsexuals* had yet to enter common usage. And there was no known solution to being stuck between the sexes. Laura Dillon did all she could on her own: she cut her hair, dressed in men's clothing, bound her breasts with a belt. But in a desperate bid to feel comfortable in her own skin, she experimented with breakthrough technologies that ultimately transformed the human body and revolutionized medicine. From upper-class orphan girl to Oxford lesbian, from post-surgery romance with Roberta Cowell (an early male-to-female) to self-imposed exile in India, Michael Dillon's incredible story reveals the struggles of early transsexuals and challenges conventional notions of what gender really means.

THE GENDER FRONTIER

Mariette Pathy Allen documents the lives of extraordinary individuals, their partners, families and friends. Through photographs and short texts, the reader is offered an intimate connection to the book's subjects and insight into how their own lives are affected by gender. As Allen says, "Transgender people offer the rest of us a potentially exhilarating vision of fluidity, freed from traditional roles or

definitions. They make vivid the questions: What is the essence of humanness beyond masculinity or femininity?"

TO MY TRANS SISTERS

Dedicated to trans women everywhere, this inspirational collection of letters written by successful trans women shares the lessons they learned on their journeys to womanhood, celebrating their achievements and empowering the next generation to become who they truly are.

Written by politicians, scientists, models, athletes, authors, actors, and activists from around the world, these letters capture the diversity of the trans experience and offer advice from make-up and dating through to fighting dysphoria and transphobia.

By turns honest and heartfelt, funny and furious or beautiful and brave, these letters send a clear message of hope to their sisters: each of these women have gone through the struggles of transition and emerged the other side as accomplished, confident women; and if we made it sister, so can you!

THINGS TO LISTEN TO

MUSIC

Transgender musicians are making their voices heard. From punk rock to hip-hop to folk, trans musicians are showcasing their talents across countless genres and making statements while doing so.

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Check out the [PRIDE IN MUSIC](#) Spotify playlist 'TRANS'. It features some of the biggest transgender artists including Kim Petras, SOPHIE, Peppermint, Shea Diamond and more

Click [here](#) to listen

PODCASTS

WHAT THE TRANS?

Created in response to cis-nonsense in the media, this UK-based weekly podcast is made by and for transgender and non-binary people. Expect responses to news, fact checking, interviews and "a generous helping of snark."

THE T POD

Presented by Stephanie, a trans woman, and Spencer, a trans man. The presenters of the T Pod describe themselves as: "Your friendly neighbourhood trans people."

Their pod is a mix of interviews and chat, covering topics from news to sex.

QUEERSPLAINING

A new podcast based in the US, which takes a deep dive into the serious issues, such as what to do when you actually get cancelled with Dawn Ennis, the first woman to come out as trans while working in Network TV in America.

ONES FROM THE VAULTS

Billed as the one and only trans history podcast, *One from the Vaults* promises plenty of "dirt, gossip, and glamour." Host Morgan M. Page digs deep to bring listeners new stories of LGBTQ icons (think Sylvia Rivera and Stormé DeLarverie) and tales of noteworthy transsexuals throughout history.

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