Becoming an Ally: Countering Microaggressions, Stereotypes, and Faith Challenges

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SOJOURN: Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender and Sexual Diversity

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#LGBTSouth
About SOJOURN
Advancing LGBTQ affirmation and empowerment across the South

Today’s Agenda:

- Introductions
- Hannah’s Story
- Gender Concepts Review
- What is an Ally?
- Think Twice, Speak Once
- People of Faith
- 5 Tips for Being an Ally
- Question Break 2
The Gender Unicorn

Gender Identity
- Female
- Male
- Genderqueer/Non-Binary

Gender Expression/Presentation
- Feminine
- Masculine
- Androgynous

Sex Assigned at Birth
- Female
- Male
- Intersex

Sexually Attracted To
- Men
- Women
- Non-Binary Genders

Romantically/Emotionally Attracted To
- Men
- Women
- Non-Binary Genders

Design by Landyn Pan

To learn more go to:
www.transstudent.org/gender

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Correction</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“transgendered” (adjective)</td>
<td>transgender</td>
<td>Only adjectives that are derived from nouns and/or verbs (unlike transgender) end in “ed.”</td>
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<td>“transgendered” (verb)</td>
<td>transition</td>
<td>Only verbs can have “ed” added onto the end of the word to become a participle. Transgender is an adjective, not a verb. One does not “transgender,” they transition.</td>
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<tr>
<td>“a transgender,” “transgenders”</td>
<td>a transgender person, transgender people</td>
<td>Transgender is not a noun. “Jake is a transgender” is not only grammatically incorrect, but can be offensive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>“sex change,” “sex reassignment surgery,” “gender reassignment surgery”</td>
<td>gender affirming surgery, genital reconstruction surgery, genital reassignment surgery</td>
<td>Surgery does not change one’s sex or gender, only genitalia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“As an ally, I’m not going to pretend to be a superhero. I am here to ask you how I can help.”
- William C. Anderson
  Community organizer, DREAMer ally.
What is an Ally?

• Allies listen more than they speak.
• Ally is not a noun, it’s a verb.
• Ally is not a self-proclaimed identity.
• Allies don’t take breaks.
• Allies constantly educate themselves.
• Allies need to know and understand a community.
• Allies don’t claim the spotlight.
• Allies direct their energy to people who share their identity.
• Allies apologize when called out.
• Allies don’t monopolize the emotional energy.
Think Twice, Speak Once
adapted from Parker Marie Molloy: http://parkthatcar.net/2014/08/13/thought-catalog-archive/

“You should jump at the chance to educate people!”
Think Twice, Speak Once
adapted from Parker Marie Molloy: http://parkthatcar.net/2014/08/13/thought-catalog-archive/

“You don’t look trans!”
Think Twice, Speak Once
adapted from Parker Marie Molloy: http://parkthatcar.net/2014/08/13/thought-catalog-archive/

“This Have you had the surgery yet?”
Think Twice, Speak Once
adapted from Parker Marie Molloy: http://parkthatcar.net/2014/08/13/thought-catalog-archive/

“But I didn’t misgender you, because you are still biologically a boy.”
Think Twice, Speak Once
adapted from Parker Marie Molloy: http://parkthatcar.net/2014/08/13/thought-catalog-archive/

“Yeah? Well, I identify as a toaster, but that doesn’t actually make me one!”
Think Twice, Speak Once
adapted from Parker Marie Molloy: http://parkthatcar.net/2014/08/13/thought-catalog-archive/

“I can’t be transphobic! I have a trans friend/brother/uncle!”
Think Twice, Speak Once
adapted from Parker Marie Molloy: http://parkthatcar.net/2014/08/13/thought-catalog-archive/

“I didn’t make up the joke - I just heard it on TV, so don’t blame me!”
Think Twice, Speak Once
adapted from Parker Marie Molloy: http://parkthatcar.net/2014/08/13/thought-catalog-archive/

“Ugh, I can’t stand him. He’s such a little girl sometimes.”
Think Twice, Speak Once
adapted from Parker Marie Molloy: http://parkthatcar.net/2014/08/13/thought-catalog-archive/

“Don’t get so offended. When I say ‘guys’ I mean everyone, you know that.”
Think Twice, Speak Once
adapted from Parker Marie Molloy: http://parkthatcar.net/2014/08/13/thought-catalog-archive/

“I’m so glad we got rid of discrimination once we got marriage equality!”
Think Twice, Speak Once
adapted from Parker Marie Molloy: http://parkthatcar.net/2014/08/13/thought-catalog-archive/

“I wish I could fight for equality with them, instead of next to them. I wish there was an ‘S’ for ‘Straight’ in the acronym.”

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Think Twice, Speak Once
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“Love the sinner, hate the sin.”
“If theology can be used to oppress, murder, and brutalize women, black people, trans people, queer people, bisexual people, and people with disabilities; then why can’t theology be used to liberate us, dignify us, and renew us?”

- Broderick Greer
Jan 7, GCN Conference

“LGBT students do not need to hear there’s a chance they might be tolerated. They need to be celebrated. They need to hear they’re wanted. They need to be protected by people with power. They have a lot of love to give away and they need to be told the truth about the beauty of their love—that it’s good for society and it’s good for the church.”

Julie Rodgers,
Former Staffer at Wheaton College

Time Article: “How a Leading Christian College Turned Against Its Gay Leader”

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Austen Hartke
Bisexual/Transgender (FTM) • Lutheran
#faithfullyLGBT

Christianity calls me to love God, to work for and with my neighbor. That call pulls me out of a tendency to spend my life just worrying about me. It's really difficult being transgender, sometimes - all the dysphoria and anxiety can push me to put up walls. But God calls me out - calls me to be myself - and has given me the strength to live joyfully, humbly, and hopefully in the world.”

Hannah Simpson
Bisexual / Trans Woman • Jewish
#faithfullyLGBT

“They call us the people Israel. We’re not people who love God, who revere God—we’re the people who struggle with God. There’s a tremendous analogy between being misunderstood, minority, and often ostracized people of the Jews as with being queer. To struggle with God, to assert ourselves, to be who we are against all those who threaten to oppose us simply for being is a commonality.”

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Questions/Discussion