Tips for Affirmative Language

"Misgendering trans people is an act of violence."
Laverne Cox, 2014

**WHY IS MISGENDERING SUCH A BIG DEAL?**

"[Misgendering] is a way of invalidating [a trans person’s] identity. It makes them feel disrespected, isolated, uncomfortable, and hated simply because of their gender. It tells them that they should hide who they really are, that people will never fully accept them. [It] contributes to a culture in which hating and disrespecting trans people is the norm."

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**MISGENDERING**

- Referring to someone in an inaccurately gendered way, or implying that they’re a gender they’re not
- Includes pronouns, honorifics (Mx./Ms./Mr.), and more

**MAY BE INTENTIONAL OR UNINTENTIONAL**

**DEADNAMING**

- Referring to someone who has changed names (especially a transgender person) by a previous incorrect name, often a birth name

**AN ADVOCATE’S GUIDE TO ADDRESSING MISGENDERING***

Did it occur in a group?

- **YES**
  - Did you misgender someone?
    - **NO**
    - Correct the person kindly and quickly.
      - Afterwards, privately check in with the person who was misgendered to offer support.

- **YES**
  - Correct yourself in the moment.
    - Apologize and/or thank the person who corrected you.
      - Avoid over-apologizing. Center the person you harmed, not your own feelings of discomfort.
    - Practice and use correct language in the future.

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*NOTE: Use this flow chart to guide your response when misgendering happens in your presence or when you’ve misgendered someone.

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1*Misgendering trans people is an act of violence. | Riley J. Dennis" (Youtube) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-u5gYxXHoA