Tips for Affirmative Language

"Misgendering trans people is an act of violence."

Laverne Cox, 2014

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
- OR UNINTENTIONAL

DEADNAMING

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

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." 1

AN ADVOCATE'S GUIDE TO ADDRESSING MISGENDERING*

Did it occur in a group?

NO

Did you
misgender someone?

Correct yourself in the moment.

Use this flow chart to

guide your response when misgendering

you've misgendered

happens in your presence or when

someone.

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.

Afterwards, privately check in with the person who was misgendered to

NO

Correct the person

kindly and quickly.

offer support.

1"Misgendering trans people is an act of violence. | Riley J. Dennis" (Youtube) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-u5gYxXHoA "Gender-specific and gender-neutral pronouns." https://www.the519.org/education-training/training-resources/our-resources/creating-authentic-spaces/gender-specific-and-gender-neutral-pronouns

