Translating Transgender:
Paint a Picture & Use the Right Words

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Dispelling the Myths: Here’s What Most People Think They Know

• Being trans is a choice
• Transgender = Immoral
• Gender identity = sexual orientation
• All trans people are just men in dresses
• All trans people have surgery
• Trans people are not “real” men / women
• You can tell one by looking at them
• You can’t change your gender

(Kreitler, 2012; TGChatroom.com, 2011; UT Austin, n.d.)
Language & Terminology

The Genderbread Person v2.0 – (Killermann, n.d.)
**Language & Terminology**

- “Transgender” is an adjective not a noun
- Don’t use outdated language (GLAAD, 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Don’t Use</th>
<th>Appropriate Terminology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex change</td>
<td>Transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gender Confirming (Affirming) Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gender Reassignment Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hermaphrodite</td>
<td>Intersex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transvestite</td>
<td>Cross-dresser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transsexualism / Transgenderism</td>
<td>None – using those terms is always offensive</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• Common terms
• *Cisgender* is a word used to describe people who are not transgender

(Transwhat, n.d.; GLAAD 2016)
Language & Terminology

- Transition refers to a complex, multifaceted process:
  - the metamorphosis from living as a member of one gender, to living in another gender (Transwhat, n.d.)
- Multidimensional:
  - Social
  - Legal
  - Medical

There is no blueprint that everyone follows – it is a unique experience
Language & Terminology

- Do **NOT** refer to a transgender person as a:
  - He-she
  - She-male
  - It
  - Tranny
The mission of The Johns Hopkins Center for Transgender Health is to reduce healthcare disparities and improve the overall health of the transgender community through world-class, holistic, evidence-based, affirming clinical care, interdisciplinary education, and research.

Semper Porro – Ever Forward