



Lambda 10 Project

Gender Normative Privilege

If I am gender normative (or, in some cases, simply perceived as gender normative):

- Strangers do not assume they can ask me what my genitals look like and how I have sex.
- My validity as a man/woman/human is not based on how much surgery I have had or how well I “pass” as a non-transperson.
- When initiating sex with someone, I do not have to worry that they will not be able to deal with my parts, or that having sex with me will cause my partner to question his or her own sexual orientation.
- I am not excluded from events which are either explicitly or de facto (because of nudity) for men-born-men or women-born-women only.
- My politics are not questioned based on the choices I make with regard to my body.
- I do not have to hear “so have you had *the* surgery?” or “oh, so you’re *really* a [incorrect sex or gender]?” each time I come out to someone.
- I am not expected to constantly defend my medical decisions.
- Strangers do not ask me what my “real name” [birth name] is and then assume that they have a right to call me by that name.
- People do not disrespect me by using incorrect pronouns even after they have been corrected.
- I do not have to worry that someone wants to be my friend or have sex with me in order to prove his or her “hip-ness” or good politics.
- I do not have to worry about whether I will experience harassment or violence for using a bathroom or whether I will be safe changing in a locker room.
- When engaging in political protests, I do not have to worry about the gendered repercussions of being arrested. (i.e., what will happen to me if the cops find out that my genitals do not match my gendered appearance? Will I be placed in a cell with people of my own gender?)
- I do not have to defend my right to be a part of “queer,” and gays and lesbians will not try to exclude me from *our* movement in order to gain political legitimacy for themselves.
- My experience of gender (or gendered spaces) is not viewed as “baggage” by others of the gender in which I live.
- I do not have to choose between being invisible (“passing”) or being “othered” and/or tokenized based on my gender.
- People will not assume that I am a top/bottom based on my anatomy.
- I am not told that my sexual orientation and gender identity are mutually exclusive.
- When I go to the gym or a public pool, I can use the showers.
- If I end up in the emergency room, I do not have to worry that my gender will keep me from receiving appropriate treatment, or that all of my medical issues will be seen as a result of my gender. (“Your nose is running and your throat hurts? Must be due to the hormones!”)
- My health insurance provider (or public health system) does not specifically exclude me from receiving benefits or treatments available to others because of my gender.
- My identity is not considered “mentally ill” by the medical establishment.
- I am not required to undergo an extensive psychological evaluation in order to receive basic medical care.
- The medical establishment does not serve as a “gatekeeper,” determining what happens to my body.
- People do not use me as a scapegoat for their own unresolved gender issues.