Good communication

regarding Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC)

Transphobia, homophobia and biphobia represent a broad range of hostile attitudes and feelings directed towards people who identify or are perceived as Lesbian, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, etc. (LGBTQIA+). These may take the form of contempt, antipathy or prejudice and may be expressed as physical or verbal aggression, harassment and discrimination.

Some handy definitions:

Coming out
The act of disclosing your SOGIESC to another person.

Outing
The act (to be avoided!) of publicly revealing someone's SOGIESC without their opinion or permission.

Heteronormativity
The system in which heterosexuality and cisgenderism are seen as the norm.

Romantic and sexual orientation
And sexual non-identity since an identity can be defined by something other than sex, which is a biological criterion (beware of the confusion between gender, sex and social gender roles).

Intersex
Not to be confused with hermaphrodite, which is a biological term that has a different definition altogether.

Passing
When a member of a minority or marginalised group "passes" for a member of the dominant group. This may evoke the idea of concealing one's identity or place the responsibility of social inclusion onto the oppressed person.

Cisgender
A person whose gender identity corresponds with the gender they were assigned at birth.

Transgender
A person whose gender identity is different from the gender they were assigned at birth. Remember not to use the word "transsexual" which is pathologising and comes from psychiatric terminology. A person can identify as transgender without going through any medical transition.

Transition
A process or state of being of a person who has a gender identity different from the gender they were assigned at birth. It refers to a social change that may or may not involve hormone therapy and/or gender reassignment surgery.

Deadname
The name that was given to a transgender person when they were born. Regardless of what changes have been made to their legal name, you should refer to them by their preferred name.

The use of abbreviations should be avoided as they may be interpreted as insulting or dehumanising.

LGBTQIA+phobic slurs, commonly used in everyday language, carry prejudice about the LGBTQIA+ communities and fuel discriminations. Their use must be prohibited.

RainboW Refugees Welcome

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