

A Gender Agenda is proud to have been approached to speak on behalf of the Trans, Gender Diverse, and Intersex communities. As groups we are often overlooked in larger discussions and our issues are frequently misunderstood. Opportunities to be included are not just valued, but to understand us is to help our survival.

Transgender Women walk a different path into womanhood that is no less valid than any other. The bravery it takes to find joy in one's identity, despite what others may say, gives us unique insight into what it means to be a woman. With compassion we can understand ourselves with nuance, and celebrate our entire selves for what brings us together despite our differences.

So take a moment to reflect. Do I believe trans women are women? Am I willing to stand up for trans women in women's spaces? What can I learn about my own relationship with womanhood from trans women?

Often gender diversity is misunderstood as a rejection of womanhood or a failure of feminism to be inclusive enough. But to understand feminism as the struggle for equality, we must embrace gender diversity in all its forms. It's people coming together, finding new ways to understand themselves and present themselves authentically to the world. We're talking concepts as old as the world, and new words for them that bring people together.

So again we have an opportunity to learn. Do I understand gender diverse people in their own terms? Can I trust a person to know themselves as well as I understand myself? Am I including these people in discussions about gender?

Intersex people prove that no one physical trait makes you a woman, yet for many this is where the discussion stops. Too many people are willing to write off intersex people as aberrant or insignificant. The whole time intersex people are the victims of medical violence that says "you are not woman enough".

So there's more to learn. Do I use intersex people as an argument? Do I understand what intersex issues are? What do I do to support intersex people with their own challenges?

These are colours unlike any other that paint a more vivid and beautiful portrait of what it means to be a woman. We are communities that experience higher rates of harm and cruelty. Yet despite all that there are many among us who stand tall and proudly proclaim themselves a part of this movement. Your job isn't to tear us down for our differences, but understand womanhood through our eyes.

These are the goals of all intersectional feminism. Because diversity makes us stronger.

We ask you to take time to understand us on our terms so that you can include us. We ask you that you help elevate our voices because otherwise we aren't heard. We ask you to look for us in your spaces and if you can't see us, ask how you can start including us.

Trans, Gender Diverse, or Intersex. We are worthy.