



# Transgender Day of Remembrance 2015



**APT N**

Asia Pacific Transgender Network

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## Introduction to Transgender Day of Remembrance

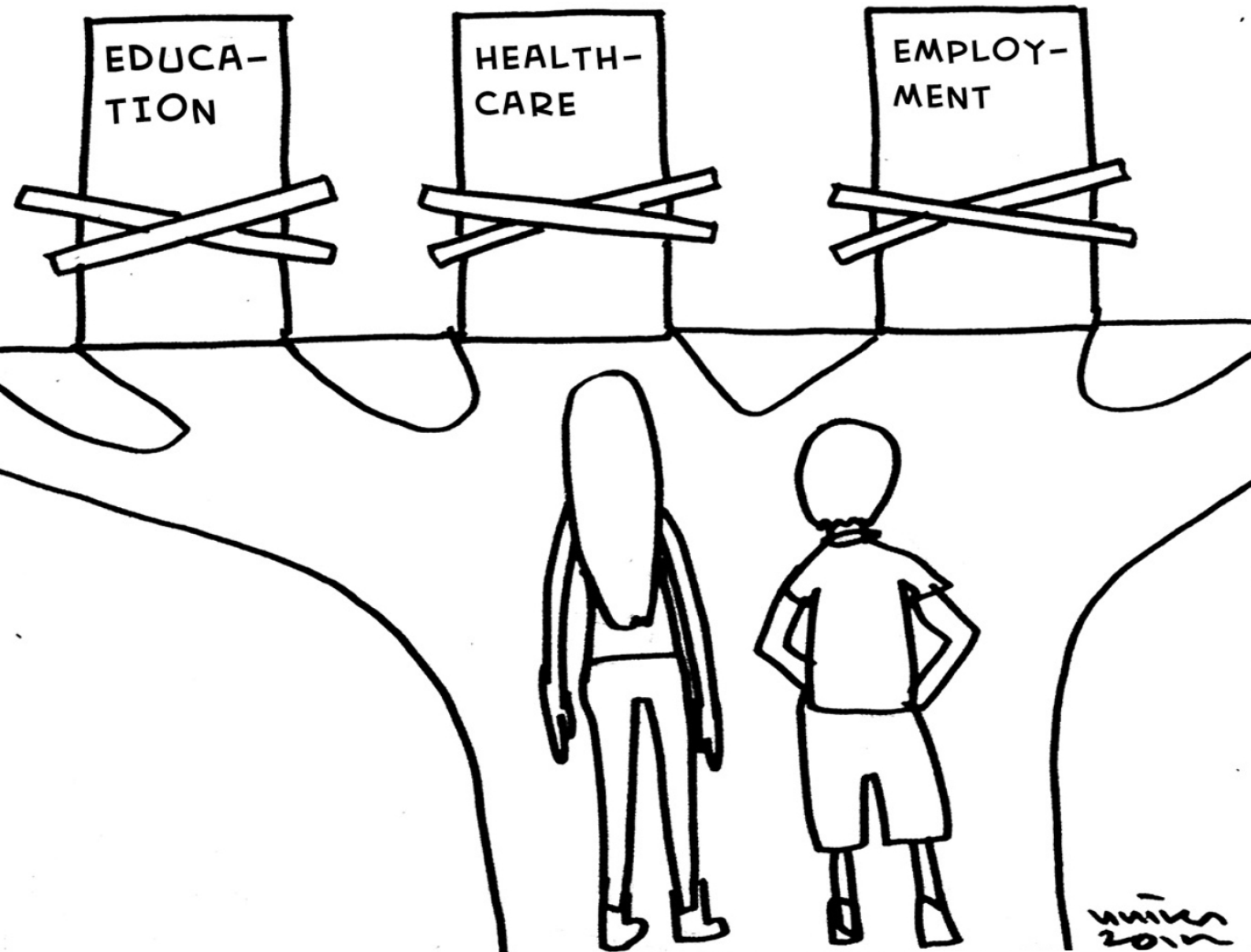
Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) began on 20 November 1999 in San Francisco, CA, USA, after the brutal murder of Rita Hester in November 1998. Like most murders of transgender people, Hester's murder remains unsolved. Throughout the year, a running list is maintained of all murders of transgender people at [www.tdor.info](http://www.tdor.info). In 2014, this list included 226 names worldwide (the vast majority of which were transgender women), with vigils held in 180 cities in at least 20 countries.

TDOR serves several purposes:

- To highlight and bring public attention to anti-transgender violence and murder.
- To name our lost sisters and brothers as an expression of love, respect, and remembrance.
- To publicly mourn the violence inflicted on our community and the lives of our fallen who may otherwise be forgotten.
- To remind cisgender people that we are their siblings, children, parents, friends, and lovers.
- To give allies space to support our community and express their grief alongside us.

The collection and dissemination of anti-transgender violence and murder statistics is now additionally and separately conducted by Transgender Europe (TGEU) at [www.transrespect-transphobia.org/en/tvt-project/tmm-results.htm](http://www.transrespect-transphobia.org/en/tvt-project/tmm-results.htm)





## Data and Facts on Violence in Asia

The global Trans Murder Monitoring Project (<http://www.tgeu.org/tmm>) has identified 155 such killings across 16 countries in Asia between January 2008 and December 2014. There were a further two transgender people killed in both the Pacific and Australia, and one in New Zealand. These reported cases represent a fraction of such alleged hate crimes, due to family cover-up of a victim's transgender identity, police misgendering of a body, and difficulty with correcting gender on legal documentation. The highest numbers of identified deaths in Asia and the Pacific were in India (48), the Philippines (35), Pakistan (22), and Thailand (14). The per capita rate of reported killings is particularly high in the Philippines, where civil society groups actively monitor such murders including the high-profile killing of transgender woman Jennifer Laude on 11 October 2014.

In a climate of criminalisation, where law enforcement agencies themselves perpetrate anti-transgender violence with impunity, it is not surprising that violence against transgender people is underreported and inadequately investigated. In this region and globally, transgender organisations have attempted to monitor the most extreme forms of violence: when transgender people have been killed because of their gender identity. This violence remains invisible and unreported when States do not legislate against family violence and leave families to enforce social norms, standards of respectability, and morality. For stories of people who have lost their lives to anti-transgender hate violence, visit [www.transgenderdor.org](http://www.transgenderdor.org).



# What You Can Do to Ensure Fair, Respectful, and Inclusive Reporting

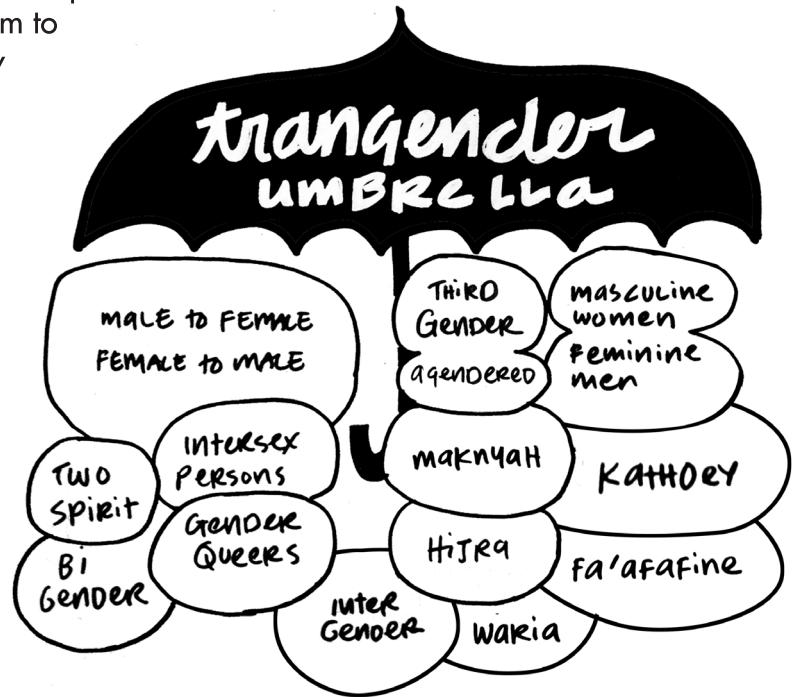
Media play a vital role in the health, safety, and recognition of transgender people through the style, respect level, and inclusion in coverage. Transgender people are regularly referred to using a past name, often based on the individual's birth certificate, when a current name differs (known as dead-naming), referred to with incorrect pronouns and gendered nouns (known as misgendering), dehumanized in a variety of ways, and omitted from media coverage. All of these issues play into a public acceptance of anti-transgender harassment, violence, and murder. It is important to note that revealing a person's trans status can compromise their personal safety and affect their mental health. Below are 6 tips on how you can do your part to respect the privacy and humanity of trans people in your coverage and reporting.

1. **Ask for your subject's preferred name** - Always use a transgender person's name they go by. Often, transgender people are not allowed to change their names legally or cannot afford a legal name change. Respect the individual's chosen name as anyone else who lives by a name other than the one assigned at birth. Reference somebody's previous name only if it is relevant to the story and if they have given their permission.
2. **Ask transgender people which pronouns to use**  
A person who identifies as a certain gender, whether or not they have taken hormones or had surgery, should be referred to using the pronouns appropriate for that gender.
3. **Refer** to someone's trans identity only when it is relevant to the story. For example, when writing a story on a traffic accident in which a transgender person is killed, the trans status of that individual is likely not pertinent.
4. **Take extreme care** when reporting on trans or gender variant children. Like all young people, they need to be protected.
5. **Remember that** sexual orientation and gender identity are separate characteristics. Trans people can be gay, straight, bisexual, or asexual.
6. **Assume nothing** about people's expression, gender, identity and orientation based on appearances.

# Terminology

Coverage on transgender issues and/ or people can be complex and highly sensitive – you can help make positive changes by avoiding defamatory language using language with care and respect that protects the privacy and dignity of transgender people. These guidelines are to encourage fair and accurate reporting on stories involving transgender people.

Transgender is an umbrella term that covers a diversity of gender identities and forms of gender expressions. It is used frequently as an umbrella term to describe people whose gender identity is different from their assigned sex at birth.



## Transgender man or trans man:

A person assigned to the female gender who identifies as male (i.e., someone whose sex was assigned female at birth but who identifies as male)



## Transgender woman or trans woman:

A person assigned to the male gender who identifies as female (i.e., someone whose sex was assigned male at birth but who identifies as female)



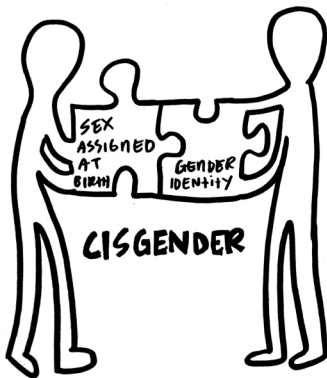
## Culturally Specific Terms

In this region, some culturally specific terms have very long histories and are best understood within their evolving cultural context. They should not simply be translated as “trans women” or “trans men”, and in some cases, the term “third gender” is a closer translation. If in doubt, consult with APTN or a local trans organization for guidance on which words are most appropriate. The following is a non-exhaustive list of terms used in some countries of the Asia Pacific region to refer to culturally specific sub-populations:

**Regional terms used for people assigned male at birth who identify as female or as a third gender** include the following: *hijra* and *thirunangai* (India), *khwaja sira* (Pakistan), *meti* (Nepal), *kathoey* (Thailand), *waria* (Indonesia), *mak nyah* (Malaysia), *transpinay* (the Philippines) and *bin-sing-jan* and *kwa-sing-bit* (Hong Kong) in Asia; and *fakafine* (Niue), *fa’afafine* (Samoa and Tokelau), *leiti* (Tonga), *palopa* (Papua New Guinea), *akava’ine* (Cook Islands), *whakawahine* (New Zealand) and *Sistergirl* (Australia) in the Pacific.

**Regional terms used for people assigned female at birth who identify as male** include the following: *bandhu* (Bangladesh), *transpinoy* (the Philippines), *thirutambi* and *kua xing nan* (Malaysia) in Asia; and *fa’afatama* (Samoa), *tangata ira tane* (New Zealand) and *Brotherboy* (Australia) in the Pacific.

### Other key terms:



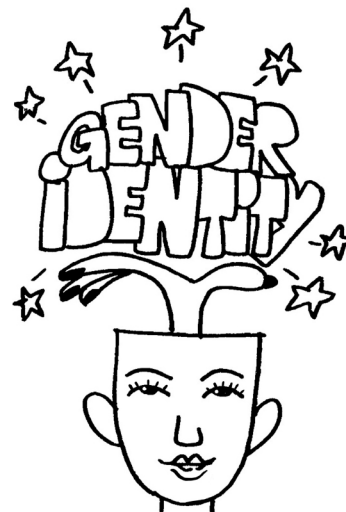
**Cisgender:**  
A cisgender person is an individual whose gender identity matches the sex assigned to them at birth.



**Gender dysphoria:**  
Refers to discomfort or distress that is caused by a discrepancy between a person’s gender identity and that person’s sex assigned at birth.



**Gender expression:**  
A person’s ways of communicating culturally-defined traits of masculinity or femininity (or both or neither) externally through physical appearance, mannerisms, ways of speaking, and behavioral patterns in interactions with others.



**Gender identity:**  
Describes a person’s internal sense of being male, female, or other genders. A person’s gender identity may or may not correspond with their sex assigned at birth.

# Terminology



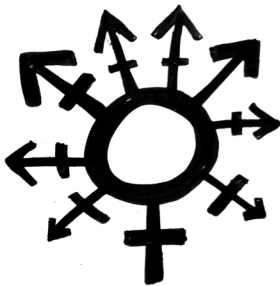
## Gender non-conforming or gender variant:

Describes someone whose gender identity or gender expression is different from societal expectations or stereotypes.



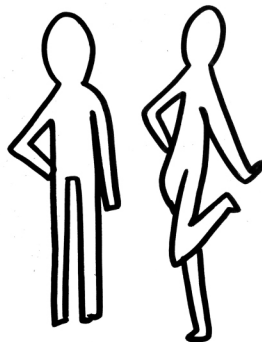
## Gender transition:

The process many, but not all, trans people undergo to live authentically in their gender identity. This may involve changes to a person's gender expression, such as their outward appearance, clothing, mannerisms, or to the name they use in everyday interactions. These types of changes are sometimes called "social transitions". Transitioning may also involve biomedical and surgical steps that help to align a person's anatomy with their gender identity. These steps are sometimes called "medical transition".



## Intersex:

A term used to describe people whose innate physical sex characteristics (such as chromosomes, gonads, and genitals) are considered to be either male or female at the same time, only partially male or partially female, or neither male nor female. The term "hermaphrodite" was previously used to describe people in this category but is linguistically inaccurate and considered offensive and should not be used.



## Sex:

Refers to the biological characteristics that distinguish females and males.



## Sex assigned at birth:

The sex to which a person is assigned at, or soon after, birth. This assignment may or may not accord with the individual's own sense of gender identity as they grow up.

# Terminology



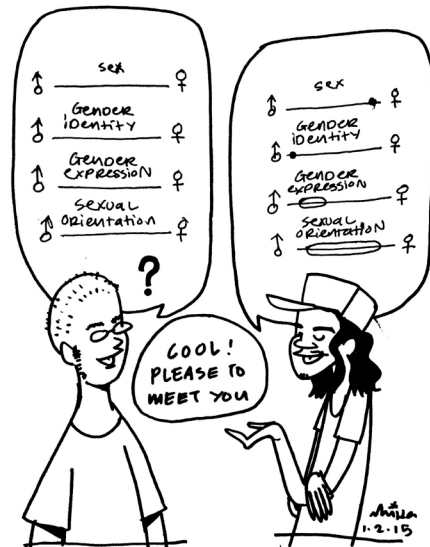
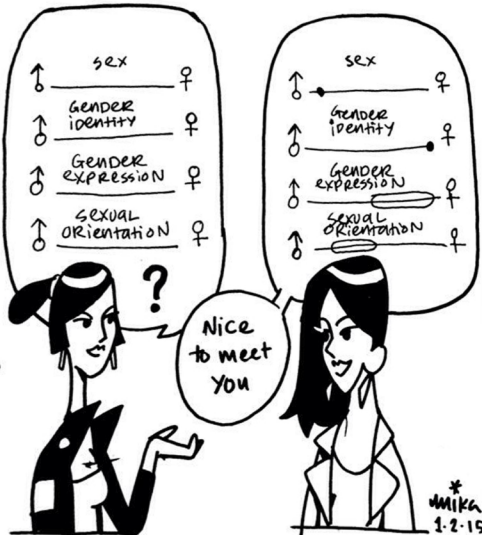
## Sexual orientation:

Each person's capacity for profound emotional, affectional, and sexual attraction to, and intimate and sexual relations with, individuals of a different gender (heterosexual) or the same gender (homosexual) or more than one gender (bisexual or pansexual).



## Transphobia:

Prejudice directed at trans people because of their actual or perceived gender identity or expression. Sometimes also referred to as "transantagonism".



Knowledge of gender and sex is evolving, so expect further linguistic changes in the future. The definitions and their level of use vary significantly across this region, within specific countries or cultures, and amongst individual trans people. Every person has the right to use the term or terms that best describes their gender identity. When in doubt, it is best to defer to the words chosen by the specific transgender people in a story or their community, when the people being covered are deceased.

## Events to Look Out For

### Australia

Brisbane: 20 November 2015, 6:00pm  
Transgender Day of Remembrance - Standing Together in Vigil  
[www.manygendersonoice.org/events](http://www.manygendersonoice.org/events)

Melbourne: 20 November 2015, 5:30pm  
Trans Day of Remembrance Event  
[www.facebook.com/events/1052536291445781/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1052536291445781/)

Perth: 20 November 2015, 8:00pm  
Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil  
[www.facebook.com/events/812264855535555/](http://www.facebook.com/events/812264855535555/)

### Fiji

25 November 2015  
16 Days of Activism Against Transgender Violence in Fiji  
[www.facebook.com/groups/1498915427102484/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1498915427102484/)

### Malaysia

20 November 2015  
Twitter chat with @Justice\_Sisters regarding challenges transgender people face, particularly in Malaysia

### New Zealand

Auckland; 23 November 2015, 19:00 (7:00PM)  
Transgender Day of Remembrance Event by Gender Bridge  
[www.facebook.com/groups/genderbridge/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/genderbridge/) (closed group)

Auckland: 19 November 2015, 19:30 (7.30pm)  
LE FREAK: Performance Act and Vigil  
[www.facebook.com/FineFatale/timeline](http://www.facebook.com/FineFatale/timeline)

### Singapore

Singapore: 20 November 2015, 7:00pm  
Transgender Day of Awareness  
[www.facebook.com/events/742167129260371/](http://www.facebook.com/events/742167129260371/)

### South Korea

Seoul: 15 November 2015, 11:00 (11:00AM)  
Transgender Day of Remembrance Sunday Worship Service  
[www.opendoorskorea.org](http://www.opendoorskorea.org), [odmccseoul@gmail.com](mailto:odmccseoul@gmail.com), call Daniel at 01038620930

### Thailand

Bangkok: 20 November 2015, 18:30 to 19:30 (6.30-7.30pm)  
Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil  
Email: [w\\_rongram@hotmail.com](mailto:w_rongram@hotmail.com) / [Jtnote@gmail.com](mailto:Jtnote@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/tdorthailand/](http://www.facebook.com/tdorthailand/)



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