



PROMOTING INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

THE WORDS/PHRASES LISTED BELOW PROMOTE **HOMOPHOBIA** / **TRANSPHOBIA** / **BIPHOBIA** AND ARE HARMFUL TOWARD PEOPLE FROM THE LGBTQ2+ COMMUNITY.

LEARN WHY THESE WORDS ARE DANGEROUS AND JOIN THE K-STATE LGBT RESOURCE CENTER IN WORKING TO ELIMINATE THEIR USE. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE OUR SPACES AND LANGUAGE MORE INCLUSIVE FOR ALL PEOPLE.

WORDS

"FAG", "DYKE", "HOMO", "TRANNY", "IT", "SODOMITE" OR SIMILAR EPITHETS*

These words, and others, are old and outdated terms that were used to refer to the LGBTQ2+ community in a derogatory manner or inflict harm upon them. These words have the ability to drastically affect how LGBTQ2+ people perceive their own self-worth or value.

"DISORDERED", "DISEASED", "PERVERTED" OR SIMILAR DISCRPTIONS

These words are used to invalidate LGBTQ2+ people's humanity and portray them as mentally ill or a danger to society. While used historically, the American Psychological Association discredited their use in the 1970's. LGBTQ2+ people are just like anyone else and they deserve the same level of respect/dignity.

PHRASES

"NO HOMO" & "THAT'S SO GAY"

The use of "No Homo" limits the way that we can express love or kindness to others and marks sharing these emotions with people of the same gender as inherently bad. 'That's So Gay' equates the word gay with being something that is not enjoyable or good. Try using the vast array of other adjectives our languages offers.

"WHAT IS YOUR *REAL* NAME / NAME YOU WERE BORN WITH?"

The use of this statement implies that the gender identity or the chosen name of that person isn't valid and perpetuates the idea that trans people are deceptive. It also presumes your right to intimate information and places a trans person's life on public display for education.

"BEING BISEXUAL IS JUST BEING GREEDY!" OR "WHICH ONE WILL YOU PICK TO BE WITH?"

This phrase stereotypes bisexual people as being promiscuous - which isn't a bad thing. This is also another way to imply that bisexuality isn't a valid sexuality by assuming that you will either "end up" gay or straight.

"SO, WHATS IN YOUR PANTS? / "HAVE YOU HAD SURGERY?"

Asking any questions about a person's body and/or surgeries is invasive and inappropriate. This is a form of gender policing and incorrectly correlates gender identity with physical body characteristics. We don't ask for this information when it comes to non-trans people, and we shouldn't for trans people.

*FOR SOME PEOPLE, THESE WORDS HAVE BEEN RECLAIMED AND SERVE AS A FORM OF SELF EMPOWERMENT. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A PERSONAL DECISION. PLEASE **DO NOT** RECLAIM WORDS ON BEHALF OF OTHERS.

"Words can inspire. And words can destroy. Choose yours well."

ROBIN SHARMA