



Queer Language

DISCOVERING THE ROOTS OF LGBTQ LANGUAGE

INTRODUCTIONS

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GUIDELINES

- **Be Present**
- **Uncomfortable does not equal unsafe**
- **Noting judgements, biases, or areas you'd like to expand your learning**
- **Focus: providing safe and accessible services, not personal beliefs or theology**
- **Trauma-Informed Self Care**
- **Thank you!**

OBJECTIVES

FIRST:

Participants will gain an understanding of the most commonly circulating LGBTQ+ terms in dominant U.S. culture

SECOND:

At the conclusion of the workshop participants will be able to engage in conversation about why LGBTQ+ language matters and how this is related to the oppression and marginalization of the LGBTQ+ community

THIRD:

Participants will leave the workshop with a better understanding of the importance of community (LGBTQ+) specific terminology and the impact of defamatory words and phrases



Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization A Division of Equitas Health

THE IMPACT OF SILENCE

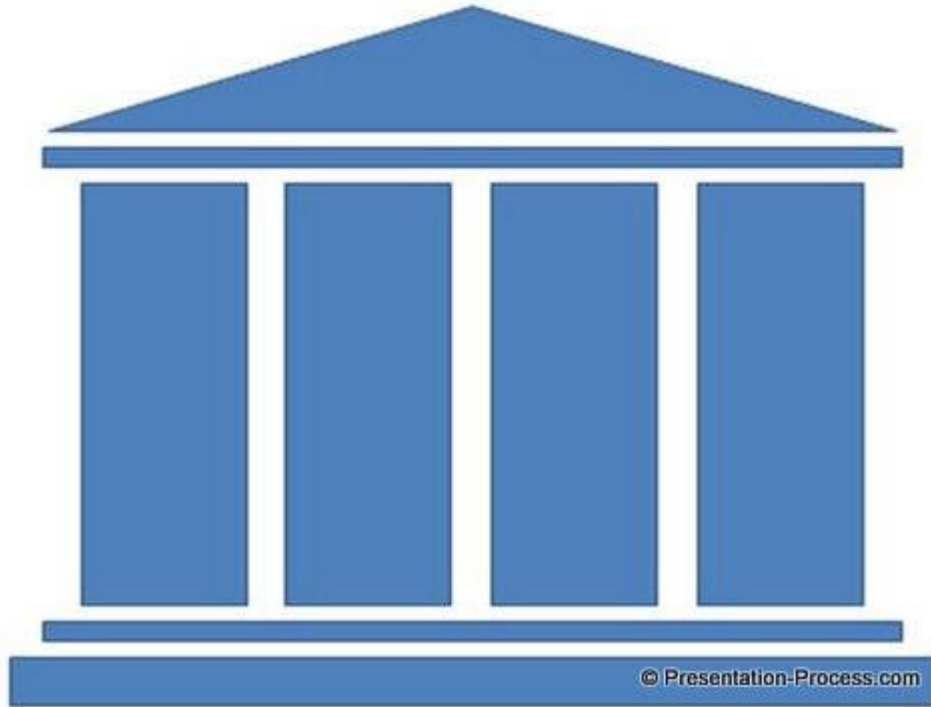
A.K.A.- Silence is Violence

IDENTITY MATTERS LANGUAGE MATTERS

“A riot is the language of the Unheard” -MLK

” “What we don’t have language for simply doesn’t exist.”

The 4 Pillars of LGBTQ Language



1. **SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH**
2. **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**
3. **GENDER EXPRESSION**
4. **GENDER**

SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH

- **Female**
- **Male**
- **Intersex**

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- **Gay**
- **Lesbian**
- **Bisexual**
- **Asexual**
- **Pansexual**
- **Demi sexual**
- **And the list goes on....**

GENDER EXPRESSION

How would you feel if you couldn't dress in a way that was comfortable for you?

What do your clothes say about you?

Does anyone always dress the same?

Gender

- **Cisgender**
- **Transgender**
- **Gender Non-Conforming**
- **Gender Non-Binary**
- **AND others**

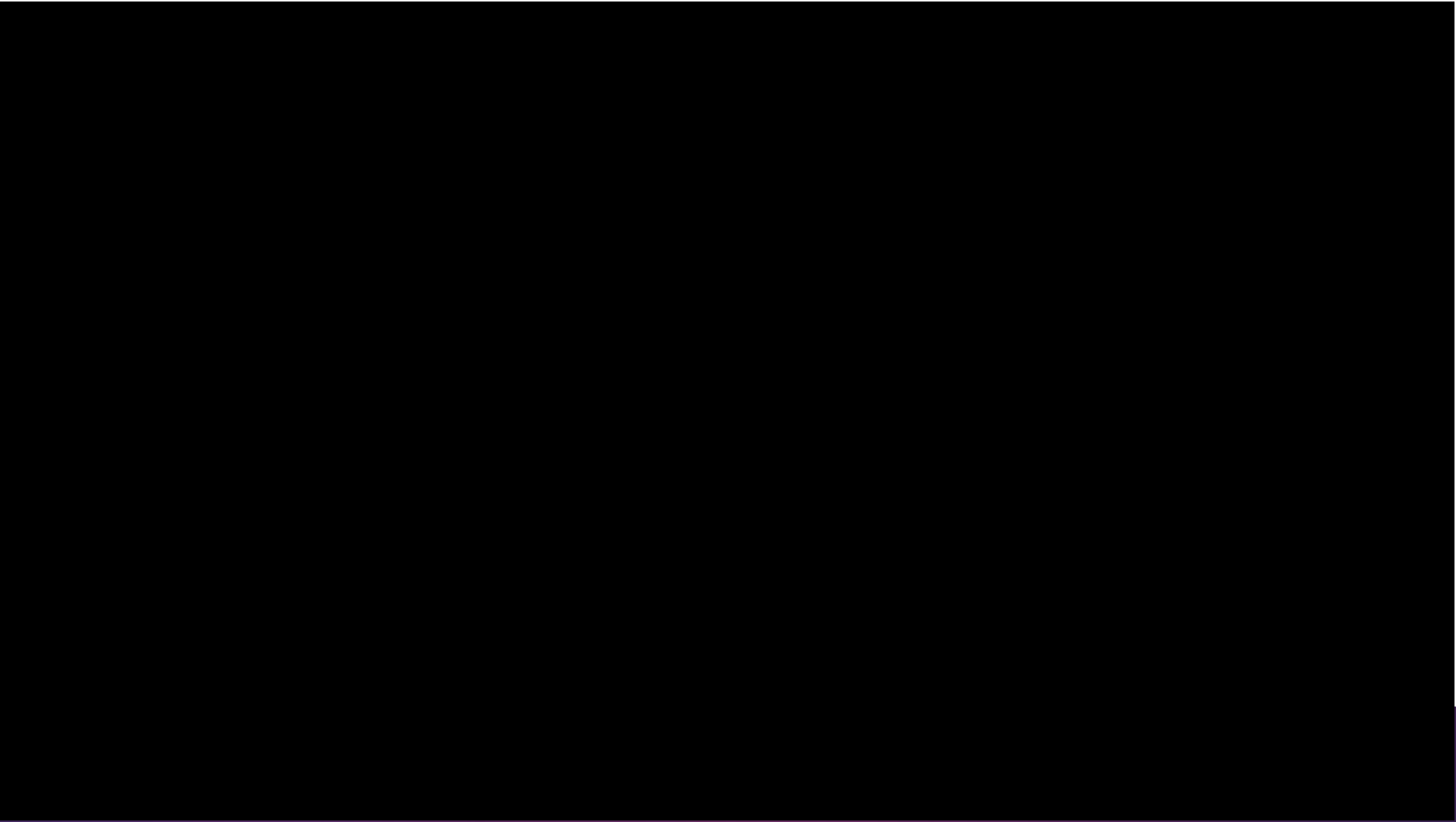
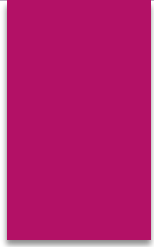
Pronouns

**THE WAY WE
REFER TO
SOMEONE IN THE
THIRD PERSON
SHE/HER/HERS
HE/HIM/HIS
THEY/THEM/THEIRS
AND MORE.....**

Historical Roots

Gay-

- **13th Century: joyous or brightly colored**
- **16th Century: first sexuality reference, hedonistic, frivolous; brothels became “gay houses”**
- **18th Century: noble, fine, The Art of Poetry was “the Gay Science”**
- **19th and 20th Century: 1920’s-1st use of it for a gay man as an effort to name it and criminalize it began in the United States, forcing gay language into the closet, mixing with Polari, a secret gay language**



POLARI



What did you
think?

**DEVELOPED FROM A
NEED FOR SECRECY
GREW INTO
POPULARITY WITH
MAINSTREAM USAGE
CHANGE IS
INEVITABLE?**

For All The Grammar Police-

Words change meaning over time and dictionaries of the time reflect the current language and grammar principles- but the rules change with usage!

**Thou, They, He/Him/She/Her and now back to
They**

Please, don't say that....



Some terms are just for us

Some terms have really negative associations/history

Some terms have not been “reclaimed” by everyone in our community

Shout it out.....



**Non-gendered
Language:**

**Spouse, Child, Server,
Mail Carrier, etc, etc.**



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TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

YOUTH OUTREACH

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THANK YOU!