

Glossary

- **AMAB:** assigned male at birth
- **AFAB:** assigned female at birth
- **Cis:** a person who is congruent with their assigned gender at birth
- **Cis-HeteroNorms:** pressure to conform to narrow standards of gender and sexuality
- **FART:** feminism appropriating reactionary transphobes
- **TERF:** trans exclusionary radical transphobes
- **Trans:** An umbrella term for people who are incongruent with the gender they were assigned at birth

References

¹Linstead & Pullen (2006) Gender as multiplicity

²Kattari & Begun (2017). On the margins of marginalized

³Trans Murder Monitoring Project – <http://transrespect.org/en/research/trans-murder-monitoring/>

⁴Williams (2016) Radical Inclusion

⁵Guide to being a trans ally: <https://www.the519.org/>



The Why And Wherefore

This brochure recognizes that trans-exclusionary ideology often infects feminist circles. Due to the prevalence of these harmful beliefs, this brochure deconstructs TERF logic in the hope that:

- 1) It might persuade some TERFs to change their minds
- 2) It can provide a resource for trans activists who are confronted by TERFs
- 3) It can safeguard against the indoctrination of vulnerable members of the feminist community

Unpacking TERF Logic

By And Pasley

What is Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminism?

- TERFs believe trans women aren't women & trans men aren't men
- TERFs often feel that trans people are undermining "women's" rights
- Trans women are often positioned as predatory men in disguise (despite having no evidence for this)
- Trans men are often positioned as 'confused' lesbians
- These politics undermine trans people's ability to live free of harm and participate in society

TERFs might

- Call themselves 'gender critical'
- Attack trans folks or incite violence
- Deny violence
- Centre their own experience
- Not respect pronouns or names
- Not be held accountable
- Use 'offence' as a diversion

- Invade safe spaces or claim that trans people make spaces unsafe
- Shut arguments down when they are called out

Why treat trans people this way?

- TERFs are invested in the gender binary for various reasons, incl:
 - Identity-based (Western) feminism has traditionally pitted men and women against each other (men = oppressor; women = oppressed)¹
 - To TERFs, vaginas = women and penises = men
 - Like all people, TERFs are survivors of patriarchy (which privileges cis-heteronormative masculinities) and many experience trauma
 - Subsequently, AMAB trans people might feel threatening;
 - AFAB trans people might seem like deserters (leaving Team Woman);
 - And rejecting the binary means there is no clear 'enemy'

In Reality

- Gender is far more than the binary and power dynamics are complex and not universal
- Trans people are also survivors of the patriarchy and significantly more likely to experience violence because of it (particularly if they are multiply marginalized)^{2, 3}
- Equating bodies with gender (and character) is the same logic that misogynists use
- Some trans people do bad things, because they are people, not because they are trans
- Radical feminism has been historically trans-inclusive⁴
- TERFs: 'feminist' branch of fascism

Ways To Respond

- Demand evidence for TERF claims
- Disengage from toxic interactions
- Conserve your resources
- Call them what they are: FARTs
- Be an ally⁵