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

1. Linstead & Pullen (2006) Gender as multiplicity
4. Williams (2016) Radical Inclusion
5. Guide 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

### 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)
  - 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)
- 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-inclusive
- 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 ally

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

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