

Gender-Normative Privilege

If I am gender normative (or, in some cases, simply perceived as gender normative):

- Strangers do not assume they can ask me what my genitals look like and how I have sex.
- My validity as a man/woman/human is not based on how much surgery I have had or how well I “pass” as a non-transperson.
- I can walk through the world and generally blend-in, not being constantly stared or gawked at, whispered about, pointed at, or laughed at because of my gender expression.
- I have the ability to flirt, engage in courtship, or form a relationship and not fear that my biological status may result in rejection or attack, or will cause my partner to question their sexual orientation.
- I am not excluded from events which are either explicitly or de facto (because of nudity) for men-born-men or women-born-women only.
- I do not have to hear “so have you had *the* surgery?” or “oh, so you’re *really* a [incorrect sex or gender]?” each time I come out to someone.
- I am not expected to constantly defend my medical decisions.
- Strangers do not ask me what my “real name” (birth name) is and then assume that they have a right to call me by that name.
- People do not disrespect me by using incorrect pronouns even after they have been corrected.
- I do not have to worry about whether I will experience harassment or violence for using a bathroom or whether I will be safe changing in a locker room or a store’s dressing room.
- I do not have to defend my right to be a part of “queer,” and gays and lesbians will not try to exclude me from “their” equal rights movement because of my gender identity (or any equality movement, including feminist rights).
- I do not have to choose between being invisible (“passing”) or being “othered” and/or tokenized based on my gender.
- When I go to the gym or a public pool, I can use the showers.
- If I end up in the emergency room, I do not have to worry that my gender will keep me from receiving appropriate treatment, or that all of my medical issues will be seen as a result of my gender.
- If arrested, I do not have to worry about being placed in a sex-segregated detention center, holding facility, or prison that is incongruent with my identity.
- If I am murdered (or have any crime committed against me), my gender expression will not be used as a justification for the murder (“gay panic”), nor result in leniency for the perpetrators.

- I will not be profiled on the street as a sex worker because of my gender expression.
- I can reasonably assume that my ability to acquire a job, rent an apartment, or secure a loan will not be denied on the basis of my gender identity/expression.
- My health insurance provider (or public health system) does not specifically exclude me from receiving benefits or treatments available to others because of my gender.
- My identity is not considered a mental pathology (“gender identity disorder” in the DSM IV) by the psychological and medical establishment.
- I am not required to undergo an extensive psychological evaluation in order to receive basic medical care.
- The medical establishment does not serve as a “gatekeeper,” determining what happens to my body.
- I can assume that everyone I encounter will understand my gender identity, and not think I am confused, misled, or hell-bound when I reveal it to them.
- I can easily find role models and mentors who share my identity.
- Films and television shows accurately depict people of my gender, and my identity is not used solely as the focus of a dramatic storyline or as the punch line for a joke.
- I am able to purchase clothes that match my gender identity without being refused service or mocked by staff or questioned about my genitals.
- I can purchase shoes that fit my gender expression without having to order them in special sizes or asking someone to custom-make them.

Adapted from: <http://www.amptoons.com/blog/archives/2006/09/22/the-non-trans-privilege-checklist/>