INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA, INTERSEXISM & TRANSPHOBIA

May 17th is International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism & Transphobia. The day as a concept started in 2005 after the first campaign was started by 24,000 people, including organisations such as International Lesbian & Gay Association,, World Congress of LGBT Jews, and the Coalition of African Lesbians signed an appeal to support this initiative.

IDAHOBIT Day represents a major global annual awareness day to draw the attention of decision makers, the media, the public, corporations, opinion leaders, local authorities, etc. to the alarming situation faced by queer, gender-diverse & intersex people around the world.

This year, RainbowYOUTH will focus on busting harmful myths surrounding some of the identities that aren't as visible outside the rainbow community.

RY #IDAHOBITDAY2020

Every trans* person gets the same surgeries in order to medically transition.

A common thing we hear is people referring to "the surgery" when talking about transitioning. One of your young people shares thoughts on this myth - making it clear that there is no singular trans experience - everyone is unique and will have their own gender journey!

> *There is no singular "the surgery". There are many different surgeries and procedures which can be involved if a trans person chooses to medically transition, and choosing to have them or choosing not to have them has no relevance to whether a person is trans* or not*

People are too sensitive about others using the correct name & pronouns

Another common misconception we hear a lot is that young people are too sensitive about pronouns and people using the correct name for them. We're here to tell you that this isn't true! Using someone's correct name & pronouns is the most basic form of respect, and the least we can do to show somebody that we respect them as a person!

> *Using the right name and pronouns matters, it is not optional. Research shows it is beneficial for mental health. Not using correct pronouns and dead-naming people is disrespectful.*

Non-binary and genderqueer people don't experience both body and social gender dysmorphia.

Non-binary people are often excluded from rainbow spaces because a lot of people don't feel like they experience the same issues as trans people. We're here to tell you this is not true! Like all other identities, there is no singular experience that everybody fits into. Some people experience things like dysmorphia, and some people don't. Neither of these make anybody any less non-binary!

> *Non-binary and genderqueer people can, and do experience both body and social gender dysmorphia, and some people don't. Everyone's gender journey is different and valid!*

There are only 3 genders: male, female, and non-binary, and all other genders fall under one of these three.

This is untrue.. there are many gender identities and all are valid and matter. For centuries, people have thought of gender as a spectrum instead of a binary!

> *that there are only 3 genders: male, female, and non-binary,,, and all other genders fall under one of these three.. this is a huge myth, and is not true*

Asexual & aromantic people don't have a place within the rainbow community.

How often do we see asexual or areomantic people represented in mainstream media, or LGBTIQ+ media?

Without any representation, many asexual & aromantic people become the target of disbelief, hostility & prejudice, and face rejection from both inside & outside the rainbow community. This can make a lot of people unwilling to come out for fear of being rejected. There are many ways in which ace/aro people are silenced, whether knowingly or unintentionally. Many people still insist that the 'A' in LGBTQIA+ stands for 'ally', and refuse to consider that instead, or at least additionally, it stands for asexual and aromantic.

> *Asexuality is not a phase, and people are not just confused! Asexuality is a valid identity*

Everybody is born either male or female.

This is untrue - there are millions of people around the world who have sexual characteristics that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies. Many, though not all, of these people identify as intersex. Intersex is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of sex characteristics such as hormones, chromosomes or reproductive organs. Sometimes these characteristics are visible at birth, sometimes they appear at puberty, and sometimes they are not physically apparent at all. At least 1.7% of the population identifies as intersex.When labelling intersex people, let's listen to their voices instead of our own!Check out Intersex Awareness New Zealand and Intersex Youth Aotearoa for more info.

FOR MORE INFO, CHECK OUT:

- OUTLine NZ
- Gender Minorities Aotearoa
- InsideOUT
- Q-Topia
- Intersex Awareness New Zealand
- Asexuality Trust New Zealand
- Te Ngākau Kahukura
- Intersex Youth Aotearoa
- Counting Ourselves Study