

BRITISH COLUMBIA HUMANIST ASSOCIATION

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TRANS-INCLUSION

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“Humanism is ethical. It affirms the worth, dignity and autonomy of the individual and the right of every human being to the greatest possible freedom compatible with the rights of others.”

– Amsterdam Declaration 2002

Over 2500 biologists, geneticists, psychologists, anthropologists, physicians, neuroscientists, social scientists, biochemists, mental health service providers and other scientists, including nine Nobel laureates, signed a statement in October 2018 that said:

“The relationship between sex chromosomes, genitalia, and gender identity is complex, and not fully understood. There are no genetic tests that can unambiguously determine gender, or even sex. Furthermore, even if such tests existed, it would be unconscionable to use the pretext of science to enact policies that overrule the lived experience of people’s own gender identities.”¹

As Humanists in an evolving society, we recognize that defining gender along a strict binary is anti-scientific and no longer encompasses the diversity of expression and understanding of our society.

Gender-neutral bathrooms

We as Humanists hold that society has a duty to provide basic, safe necessities that are equally inclusive and welcoming to all members of our community. Bathrooms that enforce outdated modalities can be a source of acute anxiety and place vulnerable, marginalised people in danger. Bathrooms located in public facilities and businesses should be designated as gender neutral. Gender neutral bathrooms provide safe, inclusive facilities for all.

¹ “Transgender, intersex, and gender non-conforming people #Won’tBeErased by pseudoscience”
<https://not-binary.org/statement/>

Pronouns

“When someone is referred to by the wrong pronoun, it can make the person feel disrespected and alienated. Proactive pronoun disclosure is one way Humanists can live the progressive, inclusive, and affirming values to which we aspire.”

– American Humanist Association²

The use of gender neutral and neo-pronouns is inclusive, respectful to those marginalized, and consistent with our philosophy of progressive community engagement. Staff, board and volunteers are encouraged to disclose their third-person pronouns on the website, in their email signature and when introducing themselves so that people who communicate with or talk about them can use pronouns that accurately describe them. This helps normalize the practice. We encourage people who engage with us to do the same.

² “Understanding Personal Pronouns and Why the American Humanist Association Proactively Discloses Them”
http://americanhumanist.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/aha_personalpronouns.pdf