

Improving Your Church's Trans Welcome.



*A resource from Transfigured
Mission and Honest Church*

Trans people need **safe spaces** due to the high rates of hostility, discrimination, and violence in broader society. Safe spaces act as refuges where trans people can freely express their gender identity without fear of judgement.

A genuine place of inclusion and safe space is somewhere that:

- Uses intentional language, and communication uses respectful terminology that includes everyone (see more on inclusive language below)
- Has policies and protections that are actively implemented. This may look like gender neutral facilities or administration processes that account for trans people.
- Has thought about the wellbeing of trans people, while giving them space to lead and contribute towards matters of pastoral care.
- Has an authentic intersectional inclusion, acknowledging that trans experience often intersects with disability, class, race and other characteristics.

For churches wanting to make their church a safe space, and explore ways to improve their **inclusion of trans people**, here are some things to consider.



Inclusive Language

The language we use in church, and especially in worship, impacts our theology and shapes our community. Simple changes with language can indicate to people that they are included, as well as specifically welcome marginalised people. Some things to consider around language:

- You don't have to completely take away gendered language; you can just add a neutral option alongside it. For example, when addressing the congregation, instead of saying, "brothers and sisters in Christ", you could say "brothers, sisters, and siblings in Christ".
- Gendered language can be affirming for binary trans people. A trans woman is a woman and therefore singling her out to use they/them pronouns is incorrect and could be upsetting. If you're talking a group of women, including trans women, it's appropriate to call them women.
- Using a wider range of pronouns for God can be a good way to demonstrate how to use different pronouns to a congregation, normalise the practice, and remind them that this is okay! It can also open new discussions about theology and faith, and how God is perceived.

Inclusive Language

Further Resources

Metropolitan Community Churches Inclusive Language Guidelines



The Methodist Inclusive Language Guide

God loves you unconditionally, no strings attached. That's good news.

The Methodist Church

Gendered Spaces

Navigating gendered spaces for trans people can be difficult and often unclear. The UK's current political landscape has heightened this uncertainty. Some things to consider when running gendered groups or activities:

- Who is invited to this? Does the activity need to be gendered? There can be benefits in single gender spaces, but are you sure it's needed or wanted by those present? Sometimes we can create gendered spaces when they are not necessary - e.g. conversations about feminism should be happening with men.
- Sometimes trans people can feel excluded from groups due to there being an 'assumed norm' of cisgender people only being welcome. If you would like trans and non-binary people to feel welcome, please be clear about this, especially in your advertising.
- Be clear in your communications about groups and events and consider in advance what a trans or non-binary person might need to know to feel they will be welcome. Suggestions to think about include: will their pronouns be respected; will they be able to use the toilet of their choice; is there a general understanding of trans issues in the group or might they face some questions or uncertainty etc.

Gendered Spaces

Further Resources



The Gendered Spaces Report 2025

This report examines how the hastily released non-statutory EHRC interim update (following the April Supreme Court Judgement on the definition of sex for the purposes of the...

 TransActual /



EHRC Code

Visit the post for more.

 Transfigured Mission / May 29



How to include trans and non-binary people in your women's group (2026)

As awareness about trans and non-binary issues rises, some women are starting to question how to make their groups more welcoming.

 We Belong Outside / Sep 15



Finding safe & supportive communities as a trans or non-binary person

For transgender and non-binary people, supportive communities can enable their survival.

 Mental Health Foundation

Toilets

Toilets have become a contentious topic when it comes to trans inclusion. Every person should be able to access a toilet safely, so it's an important topic to consider. Here are some things to think about:

- Make it clear that people can use whatever toilet they are comfortable using, regardless of how they express their gender. You could make all toilets gender-neutral by taking off gender markers and instead using descriptions e.g. 'this toilet has individual stalls' and 'this toilet has stalls and urinals'.
- Consider how to challenge people who might push back on this issue and don't want to share toilets with trans folk.
- Do you have a gender-neutral toilet, and is it the only accessible toilet?
- If you offer menstrual products in the women's toilets, include them in all toilets.

Toilets

Further Resources



Pee in Peace

Recent changes to guidance has left many businesses unsure how to approach bathroom access inclusively whilst remaining within the law.

 [Good Night Out Campaign](#)



Toilet Provision Submission

We hear that trans, non-binary and gender-diverse people are too often not made to feel welcome, or even safe when using toilet facilities. It is unacceptable that any child shoul...

 [Mermaids](#)



Map / Open Lavs

Find a unisex loo near you.

 openlavs.com

Difficult church services for trans people

As with many minority groups, trans people may struggle with some church services. You may wish to reflect upon how you produce liturgy for, and create space within, these services, that they may be spaces of safety and healing rather than fear.

- Mother's Day. Consider who this service is for (mothers, all women etc.) What could you do to include rather than exclude?
- Advent/Christmas. Certain family models are often normalised around this time. How could you intentionally include those who are not part of a nuclear family?
- Think ahead about triggering topics and putting a warning in the church newsletter or service sheet if possible.
- Mark the Trans Day of Visibility and the Trans Day of Remembrance, so that you are both celebrating the wonderful contributions of trans people but also holding space for and acknowledging their pain.
- Offer an alternative or quiet 'opt-out' space.
- Consider how worship and prayers can reflect the real-world injustices that trans people are facing.

Difficult church services for trans people

Further Resources



Trans Theology

Trans theology is part of queer theology and liberation theologies. It offers a fresh perspective and different lens for approaching scripture and spirituality.

- Explore it and learn more about what trans theology entails. Trans theology looks at disrupting binaries, it doesn't just talk about gender.
- Share trans theology in sermons, courses, and small groups so that congregations can also learn more about it. It's important that this isn't just done during pride month/TDoV/TDoR/queer specific events - it should and can be used in all settings.
- Uplift trans theologians in your discussions, including if they're not 'just' doing trans/queer theology- trans people have thoughts on other things as well.

Trans Theology

Further Resources



The Little Book of Trans Theology, Affirmation, and Joy – SCM – Student Christian Movement

Trans* Theology is theology that is created by and for trans people. Trans* Theology covers a variety of aspects of...

SCM / Nov 19, 2024



Books

Visit the post for more.

 Transfigured Mission / Oct 14, 2025

Trans Day of Remembrance (TDoR)

Churches may wish to offer an annual worshipping and prayerful space for trans people. The Trans Day of Remembrance marks all the trans people who have died over the previous year. It is a time of lamenting and justice seeking.

- Try to avoid a situation where only trans people are organising this and share with cis members of the community why it is important they help and attend.
- TDoR is not a joyful celebration, and it probably will be uncomfortable for cis people who are present. Resist the urge to try to minimise the pain to make it more palatable.
- If possible, collaborate with your local LGBTQ+ groups to bring a space that truly reflects the community and the struggles they are facing.

Follow the Transfigured guidance if you would like to lead your own TDoR service:



Trans Day of Remembrance

Visit the post for more.



Transfigured Mission / Oct 3, 2025

Politics/Local Context

Issues of social justice ask churches how they are responding or supporting the marginalised. Due to recent changes in legal rights for trans people, they often experience the brunt of UK politics - they have become a talking point and been dehumanised in political discourse. One extremely important way you can show that you welcome trans people where you are is to campaign alongside them for their rights.

- Is the church active in community action or organising?
- What work has the church done in the local area to encourage progressive trans inclusive politics?
- Write to your local MP and local council to challenge transphobic guidance etc.
- Keep up to date with what is happening to trans people nationally and locally. (And don't expect trans people to do this for you!)
- Turn up to protests, pride marches, lobbies, etc.
- Donate to your local trans groups.

Politics/Local Context

Further Resources



Transfigured Mission

We unite churches, clergy, and laity in a transformative initiative. We are led by transgender and non-binary Christians, our mission is for true inclusion and belonging...

 Transfigured Mission

Follow:

- [Transfigured Mission](#)
- [Good Law Project](#)
- [Trans Legal Clinic](#)
- [Trans Solidarity Alliance](#)
- [TransActual](#)

Understanding/Education

Increasing your understanding, and the understanding of your ministry team or congregation, may help decrease the barriers to trans people attending and feeling welcome at your church. Common barriers include: being misgendered, facing prohibitions on marriage or leadership, or being viewed as an ideological issue rather than a welcomed human being.

- Nobody is expecting perfection, but trans people do deserve your effort to try.
- If you're going to ask a trans person to educate you, pay them. Try to offer any work to trans people first over cis allies on these topics.
- Continually learn. If you don't understand something, you can ask, but be aware that trans people may not want to, or feel safe to, explain.
- Look at trans charities' resources ([Gendered Intelligence](#), [Transactual](#), [Trans Kids Deserve Better](#), [Mermaids](#), [Transfigured Mission](#)) and use them.
- Receive training from your local LGBTQ+ or trans group (or ask them to signpost you to someone who can).

Understanding/Education

Further Resources

E-Learning Access

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 Trans in the City



Become Trans* Inclusive

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 Transfigured Mission / Aug 27, 2025