



G(ENDER) SWAP



FREE

shop

... A GUIDE

BY EMILY

What is a Free Shop?

A free shop is a place that provides goods free of charge, which are often donations from people that no longer need them. It's like a charity/second hand shop except the consumer doesn't pay for the items.

People are often encouraged to donate other unwanted items in return if possible, although this is not at all necessary.



Why build a Free Shop?

Free shops are built to help those in need. It also encourages people to make use of unwanted items knowing they could help someone.



CAN YOU
HELP?

How Can a Free Shop Support Queer/Trans People?

- Judgement free zone to find clothes etc.
- No gender specific sections/changing rooms
- Free way to explore new ways of dressing
- Items stocked at free shop that you wouldn't find every day/might be embarrassed to shop for in general public e.g. binders, wigs, makeup, sexual/menstrual health products
- More likely to find people who can relate to and support you



What should a Free Shop have in it?

- Clothes suitable for all weathers, sizes and, if possible, styles
- Toiletries (e.g. sanitary and hygiene products, toothpaste etc.)
- Sexual health products
- Underwear/socks
- Hats/gloves/scarves
- Shoes and bags
- Sleeping bags
- Gender affirming goods e.g. binders, wigs makeup
- Leisure items e.g. books and toys for children



What equipment and resources do you need to start a Free Shop?



a rail



**clothes
hangers**



storage boxes

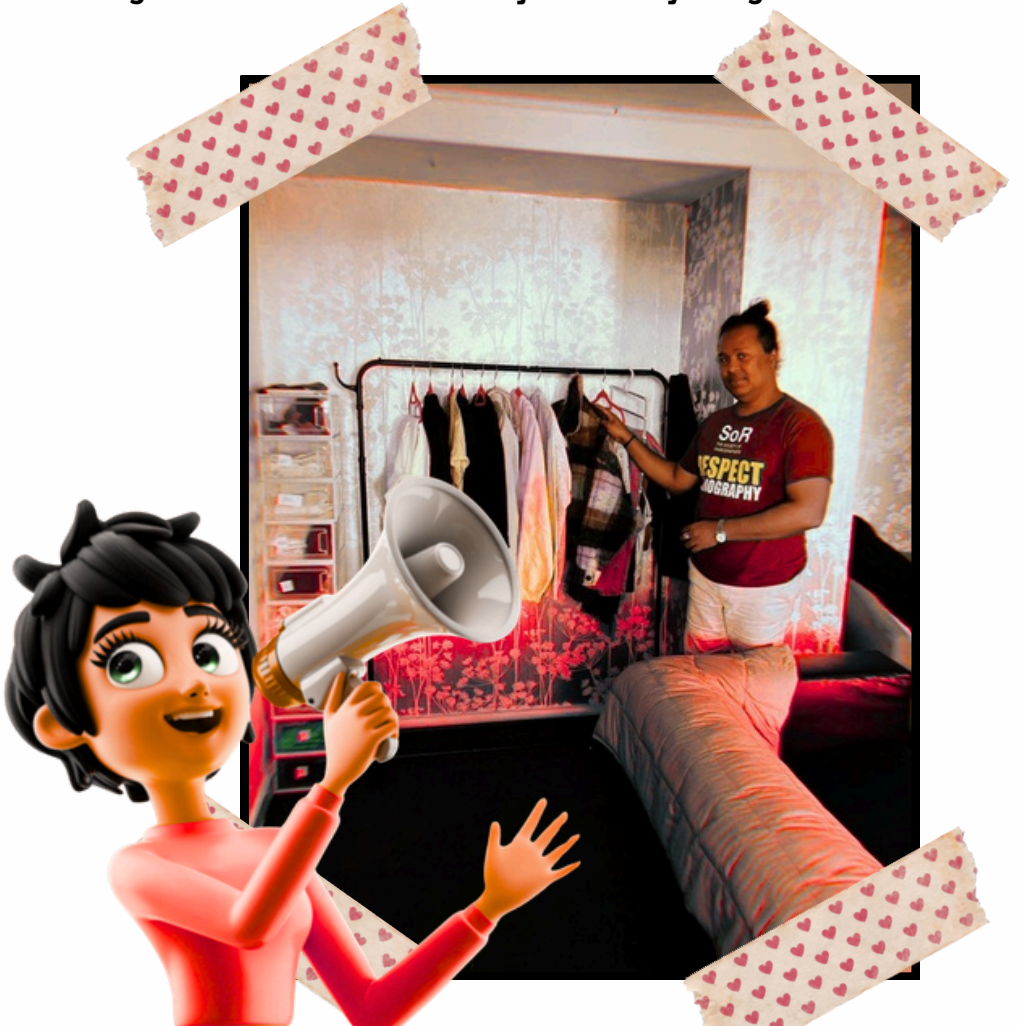


labels



How can you get donations?

Spread the word that donations are wanted! You can do this through posters and shout outs online. You can also look into what you have yourself that can be donated. You can reach out to organisations to see if they have anything to donate.

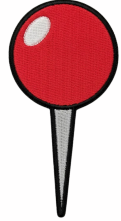


How can you sort through donations?

You can sort through donations by making sure they are in good enough condition to give away, and suitable for the season. It also helps to categorise things into clothing type, size, etc. This way people can find what they need more easily. You can always ask people to help if it gets too overwhelming!



Tips for Running a Free Shop



- **Make sure you have a good location for it**



- **Ensure you have enough storage space for all the donations**

- **Don't try and hang too much on the rail**



- **You can store out of season clothes somewhere else so the free shop doesn't get overcrowded**

- **Make clear the location and opening times**



- **Make sure people know what sort of items you are after**



- **Regularly sort through donations**

Free Shop Locations in London/Online

- The Outside Project Community Centre (Borough)
- Trans Winter Night Shelter
- STAR refuge
- London LGBTIQ+ Community Centre (Southwark)
- Image In (Croydon)
- Give Your Best (Islington)

- Tin Wardrobe: www.tinwardrobe.org.uk
- Trans Support Hub: www.transsupporthub.co.uk

About Emily

I have been creating resources for G(end)er Swap for a few months, which has been really fun and exciting. I love being creative in many ways such as DIY fashion, making art and music!

Thanks for reading!

Find more of my resources at
www.genderswap.org

