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Cisgender Privilege Checklist

Directions: As you read the list below, identify the privileges about being cisgender that surprised you. These examples of cis-privilege are meant to be viewed as a self-assessment and are therefore written in the first person.

Clothing

- Clothing works for me, more or less.
- I am a size and shape for which clothes I feel comfortable wearing are commonly made.
- There are clothes designed with bodies like mine in mind.
- If I am unable to find clothing that fits me well, I will still feel safe, and recognizable as my gender.

Healthcare

- I expect access to healthcare.
- I cannot be denied health insurance on the basis of my gender.
- I expect medical forms to reflect choices regarding my gender.
- I expect that I will not be denied medical treatment by a doctor on the basis of my gender.
- My identity is not considered a mental pathology (“gender dysphoria” in the DSM V) by the psychological and medical establishments.
- Treatments which are medically necessary for me are generally covered by insurance.
- I expect that medical professionals competent to treat my conditions exist outside of major cities, and in proportion to the demand for them. I expect no undue delay in access to routine medical services, and for such services to be available (at least) five days a week.
- 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.
- I expect that there exists formal training about medical conditions affecting me.
- I am not required to undergo an extensive psychological evaluation in order to receive basic medical care.
- There is information about the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other diseases in my community.

Local and National Travel

- I expect my gender to not unduly affect my ability to travel nationally and internationally.
- If I am asked for a pat down by a TSA agent, I expect it to be done by a person who reflects my gender or will be asked which agent I prefer.
- My gender presentation is legal in all countries.
- I expect that information on a country relevant to travelers of my gender will be readily available, and supplied to me by travel guides, travel agents, and study abroad officials.
- I expect that a visa and passport will be sufficient documentation for me to enter any country, however difficult these may be to obtain.
- I expect that my documentation will decrease suspicion about me.

Media and the Arts

- Bodies like mine are represented in the media and the arts.
- Bodies like mine are represented in magazines and books.
- I can identify with images of my body in movies, plays, shows, etc.
- I see people like me on the news.

- I can easily find role models and mentors to emulate and who share my identity.
- Hollywood accurately depicts people of my gender in films and television, and does not solely make my identity the focus of a dramatic storyline, or the punchline for a joke.

Offenses

- Wronging me is typically taken seriously.
 - a. Those who wrong me are expected to know that it is hurtful, and are considered blameworthy whether or not they intended to wrong me.
 - b. I have easy access to people who understand that this wrong is not acceptable, and who will support me.
 - c. I have easy access to resources and people to educate someone who wronged me, if I am not feeling up to it.
 - d. If I am being wronged, I can expect that others who are around will notice.

Physical and Emotional Safety

- I do not expect to be physically assaulted because of my body.
- I do not expect someone to question that I am cisgender and if they do, that I would incur violence as a result.
- I do not expect to be demeaned or belittled because I am cisgender.
- I can reasonably assume that I will not be denied services at a hospital, bank, or other institution because the staff does not believe the gender marker on my ID card matches my gender identity.
- When someone checks my identification or my driver's license, I will never be insulted or glared at because my name or sex does not match the sex they believed I am to be based on my gender expression.
- I do not expect strangers will ask me what my genitals look like or how I have sex.
- I can walk through the world with little concern for my safety and well-being and do not scan others in fear that I may be assaulted or mocked because of my body and/or appearance.
- If someone else thinks I'm in the wrong bathroom, locker room, or changing room, I am in no danger of verbal abuse, arrest, stares, or physical intimidation.
- When (or if) people mistake my gender, there are unlikely to be serious consequences.
- I have the ability to flirt, engage in courtship, or form a relationship and not fear that my biological status may be cause for rejection or attack, nor will it cause my partner to question their sexual orientation.
- When I am dating someone, I do not question if they aren't just looking to satisfy a curiosity or kink pertaining to my gender identity (e.g., the "novelty" of having sex with a trans-person).
- My identity is not considered a mental pathology ("gender dysphoria" in the DSM V) by the psychological and medical establishments.
- I 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).
- When I interact with law enforcement, I do not fear interactions with police officers due to my gender identity, nor do I fear that I may be provided differential treatment.
- If I am murdered (or have any crime committed against me), my gender expression will not be used as a justification for my murder ("gay or trans panic"), nor as a reason to coddle the perpetrators.
- I do not have to pretend that anatomy and gender are irrevocably entwined when having the "boy parts and girl parts" talk with children, instead of explaining the actual complexity of the gender and sex.
- I don't have to convince my parents of my true gender and/or have to earn your parents' and siblings' love and respect all over again.
- I don't have to remind my extended family *over and over* to use proper gender pronouns or different names (e.g., after transitioning).

Privacy

- I expect the privacy of my body to be respected in bathrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities.
- My gender is always an option on a form.
- I am not asked about what my genitalia looks like, or whether or not my breasts are real, what medical procedures I have had, etc.
- It is easily possible for representations of my naked body to pass obscenity restrictions.
- I am not asked by others what my “real name is or was.”
- 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.
- I am able to go to places with friends on a whim knowing there will be bathrooms there I can use.

Sex segregated facilities

I expect access to, and fair treatment within:

- Homeless shelters
- Domestic violence shelters
- Dormitories
- Drug rehabilitation
- Prisons
- Bathrooms
- Locker rooms
- Gyms
- Hostels
- Juvenile justice systems

Workplace

- I expect laws banning the creation of a hostile work environment will ban the use of offensive language about me.
- I expect laws to be in place that prevent sexual or gender-type harassment.
- I expect to have a bathroom that I can use without fear of redress, physical or verbal intimidation, stares or ridicule.