


Winter 2018

Social Change: Gender Neutral Restrooms

Kelly Tyrrell
ktyrrell@uw.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.tacoma.uw.edu/gender_studies

 Part of the [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Family, Life Course, and Society Commons](#), [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#), and the [Politics and Social Change Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Tyrrell, Kelly, "Social Change: Gender Neutral Restrooms" (2018). *Gender & Sexuality Studies Student Work Collection*. 19.
https://digitalcommons.tacoma.uw.edu/gender_studies/19

This Undergraduate Project is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at UW Tacoma Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gender & Sexuality Studies Student Work Collection by an authorized administrator of UW Tacoma Digital Commons.

A DIFFERENT WAY OF "DOING" GENDER

PEE IN PEACE

gender neutral restrooms

**PARTICIPATE IN SOCIAL
CHANGE IN DAILY LIFE**

WHO ARE TRANSGENDER PEOPLE?

TRANS + GENDER

Term coined in English
by John Oliven in 1965

an umbrella term referring to any person "who does not conform to societal gender norms and roles including but not limited to transsexuals, transvestites, crossdressers, and others"



SOURCE: SAMAR

TRANS

HASHTAG TRENDING IN RESPONSE TO THE BATHROOM BILL

#WeJustNeedToPee

prohibiting those not using the bathroom that corresponded with what was on their birth certificate a crime

2013 Arizona first to sponsor a “Bathroom Bill”

2013 Arizona first to sponsor a “Bathroom Bill” prohibiting those not using the bathroom that corresponded with what was on their birth certificate a crime - other states followed

other states followed

sensationalism

TRANSGENDER BATHROOM
ISSUES OFTEN TAKE AWAY
FROM BIGGER ISSUES OF
DISCRIMINATION FACING
THE TRANS COMMUNITY
SINCE THEY EXPERIENCE
VIOLENCE AND
DISCRIMINATION IN SO
MANY OTHER AREAS OF
THEIR LIVES

source: glaad



*trans
restrooms
could*

#ProtectTransKids

"popular hashtag to shame Trump for rescinding Obama-era protections that provided all trans kids with 'restroom choice'"

+fundamentally transform the way we think about gender equality (men and women are not fundamentally different)

+safety for trans people—bathrooms free of harassment and marginalization

self-proclaimed
"chief
homophobe"
Del. Robert G.
Marshall

authored a bill
restricting
trans people
from using
their preferred
bathroom

defeated by
Roem

**DEMOCRAT DANICA ROEM:
FIRST OPENLY TRANSGENDER
LAWMAKER IN AMERICA**

WHY ALL THE HATE?

**AD CAMPAIGNS
FEATURING A
YOUNG GIRL BEING
FOLLOWED INTO
THE BATHROOM BY
AN OLDER MAN**

**FOCUS:
PREVENTING SEXUAL
DANGER TO WOMEN &
GIRLS**

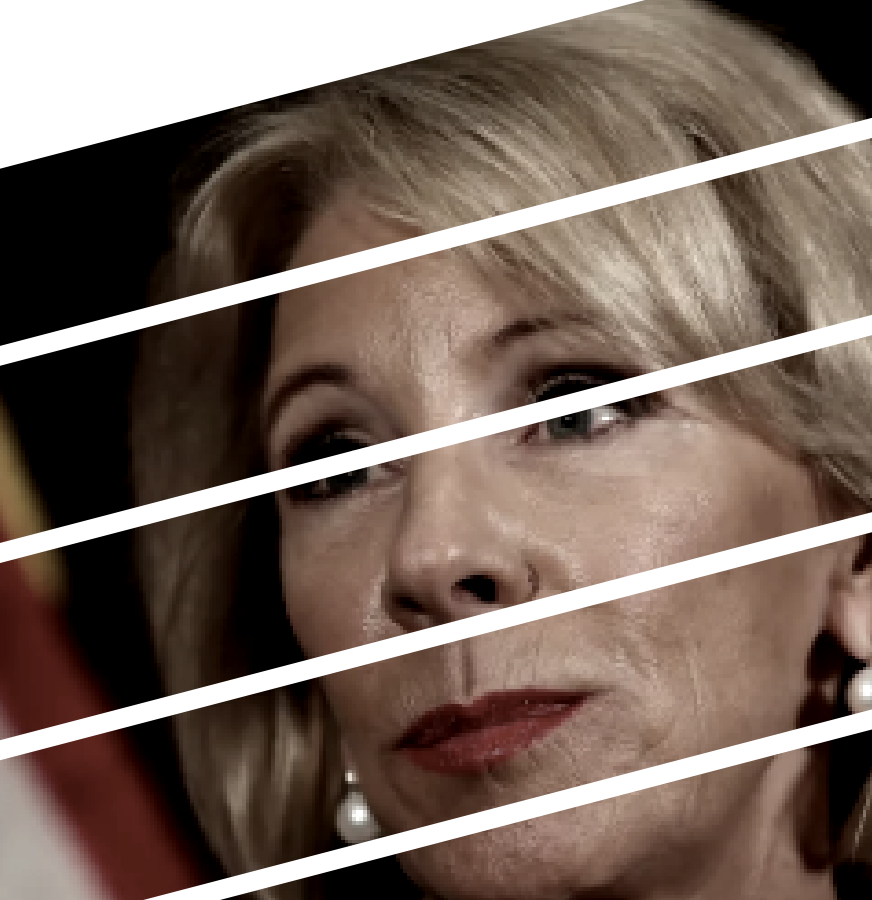
**ALSO:
HOMOSEXUALITY
=
DEVIANCE**

**WHAT ABOUT THE DANGER TO
TRANS PEOPLE?**

fear mongers:

"The undercover figures we imagine are not snooping cops but rather heterosexual men who might pretend to be women "that day" to follow women and girls into restrooms."

(WHAT ARE THE STATS ON THIS?)



IT'S A CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE

"The Education Department is no longer investigating complaints from trans students barred from school bathrooms that match their gender identity."

Education Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Hill:

"Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, not gender identity. Where students, including transgender students, are penalized or harassed for failing to conform to sex-based stereotypes, that is sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. In the case of bathrooms, however, longstanding regulations provide that separating facilities on the basis of sex is not a form of discrimination prohibited by Title IX."



STILL WE PERSIST

“Single-stall, gender neutral restrooms can be beneficial not only for trans and gender-nonconforming people but also for families and people with disabilities.” (Erickson-Schroth)

“To me, saying gender-neutral is like saying colorblind. We see gender. To deny it is to deny people’s reality. We’re trying to increase recognition of the diversity of gender rather than to erase it.” (Genny Beemyn)

