



Transgender people: 10 common myths

As transgender issues get more attention, pernicious myths remain. Here's what you should know.

Transgender people, who identify with a gender different from the one assigned to them at birth, have become increasingly visible and accepted in American society, from TV

shows like *Orange is the New Black* and *Transparent* to Caitlyn Jenner’s headline-grabbing coming out.

The growing visibility and acceptance, however, has also been met with resistance — part of the same tide that has resisted LGBTQ rights in America for decades. This resistance has maintained a key advantage in public discussions about trans people: There are still many misconceptions about what it means to be trans, from questions about which bathrooms trans people can use to whether children can identify as trans.

For LGBTQ advocates, debunking the myths has become vital not just to getting Americans better acquainted with trans people and the issues that they face, but also building support for trans and LGBTQ rights.

Here’s what you need to know.

— **German Lopez**

Start here

Myth #1: Transgender people are confused or tricking others

<p>Myth #1: Transgender people are confused or tricking others</p>	<p>Myth #2: Sexual orientation is linked to gender identity</p>	<p>Myth #3: Letting trans people use the bathroom or locker room matching their gender identity is dangerous</p>
<p>Myth #4: Transitioning is as simple as one surgery</p>	<p>Myth #5: All trans people medically transition</p>	<p>Myth #6: Transgender-inclusive health care is expensive</p>
<p>Myth #7: Gender dysphoria is a mental health condition</p>	<p>Myth #8: Trans people are more violent</p>	<p>Myth #9: Trans people are more likely to be violent</p>

Myth #7: Children aren't old enough to know their gender identity

Myth #8: Transgender people are mentally ill

Myth #9: Transgender people make up a third gender

Myth #10: Drag queens and kings are transgender