

LGBTQIA+ Red Phoenix Writing Guidelines

Section One: General Language Usage

- LGBTQIA+ or Queer?
 - Use **LGBTQIA+** in formal writing that covers the entire community. **Queer** can be used in place of LGBTQIA+ in writing if need be for context and writing flow.
 - DO NOT use LGBTQIA+ when talking about *specific groups* within the overall community. If the article is about transgender people specifically, use the term “transgender” etc.
- Transgender or Trans?
 - In formal writing spell out the full wording for communities in question. Do not use shorthand. An article should read the **transgender** community, NOT “the trans community.”
 - Terms for specific transgender people such as **trans-masculine** or **trans-feminine** are fully acceptable and commonly used to include nonbinary people who have transitioned in some way (socially, medically, etc).
 - For example, not everyone who uses estrogen for the purpose of gender affirmation is a transgender woman, since many nonbinary trans-feminine people use HRT.
 - Never use the terms “transwoman” or “transman.” Always use the terminology **transgender woman** and **transgender man** (or transgender girl/boy when speaking about youths, especially prepubescent children). Transgender is always an *adjective* because, ie, transgender *women* are *women* etc.
 - These guidelines apply equally to **cisgender** instead of “cis.”
- Gender-nonconforming?
 - In place of “gender-queer” use the term **gender-nonconforming** as a more correct umbrella term for all people who exist outside of socially accustomed gender norms. This is especially important in contexts which include cisgender people – such as many drag performers and people who may dress or express themselves in a certain way that doesn’t necessarily equate to their gender (ie, a cisgender man who wears a dress, or a cisgender girl/woman who is a “tomboy,” cisgender butch lesbians, etc).
 - **Gender-queer** is acceptable for usage when a person’s self-described gender identity is gender-queer.
- Pronouns
 - When quoting a direct source, it is standard practice to include the person’s name and age (i.e.: “Natasha, 39, says...”). We want to make a habit to also include the person’s pronouns when known (i.e.: “Natasha, 39, she/her, says...”).
- “Masc”/”Fem”?

- Just like with transgender instead of “trans,” use the full words of **masculine** and **feminine**. “Masc” and “fem” are just too informal; the RP is not the place for shorthand.
- “Femme” is generally *not* appropriate when referring to feminine people (such as feminine nonbinary people) because it is historically a specifically *lesbian* cultural identity, just like butch.
- BIPOC or Multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-racial? (Also: *Latinx*?)
 - “BIPOC” is rooted in postmodern thought and identity politics. **Multi-ethnic**, **multi-national**, and **multi-racial** are more materialistic and Marxist terminology for minority segments of the working class. Which one you use depends on context; be *precise* with what exactly you are trying to say. BIPOC as a term also engages in cultural erasure.
 - “Latinx” is another word we don’t use for similar reasoning as BIPOC. **Latino** is the default to include all genders (the community as a whole), also used specifically for men, and **Latina** would be used for women. (*In some cases **Latine** is gaining traction as a neutral form of Latino/a which is actually pronounceable and compatible with the Spanish language, but it is not appropriate for us to use as English speakers at this point.*)
 - Specific races/ethnic/national groups should always be capitalized such as: **Black**, **African-American**, **Chicano(a)**, **Navajo**, **Chinese**, etc. **White** is *not* capitalized because it generally is not an identity in itself.
- Using **youth** or **minor** vs. “child”?
 - Reactionaries tend to focus on the terms “child” and “children.” We want to avoid using similar language. We want **youth** (a physiological designation) liberation and protections of **minors** (a legal designation).
 - Use the term **child** only when appropriate to do so – ie prepubescent youths, or in a propagandistic sense (such as making an agitational point, like when a 15 year old is vilified by reactionary media and referred to as a “man” we can make a point by specifying that this person was a “child.” We see this often when Black youths are victims of brutality.)
- Transphobe or TERF? (**queer-antagonistic revisionism**)
 - Never use the term “transphobic” or “transphobia.” Use instead **anti-transgender**. This also follows with “homophobia.” It should be **anti-LGBTQIA+**, **anti-gay**, or **anti-queer**. These are *adjectives*, not nouns.
 - When talking about anti-LGBTQIA+ Marxist currents we can label them as **queer-antagonistic revisionism**. Revisionism here not only applies to revisionism of Marxism but also *historical revisionism*.
 - TERF is specific to a particular faction of “radical feminism” and *NOT* synonymous with “transphobia” or **anti-transgender bigotry**. It is very rarely

applicable unless you are specifically referring to an actual *Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist*.

Section Two: General Party Lines

- Party Line on Sex
 - Human **sexual designation** (“biological sex”) should never be labeled as a “binary.” Sexual designation is a spectrum with a multitude of possibilities
- Party Line on Gender
 - Gender is a **social phenomenon** (not social “construct”) that has internalized and externalized segments. It is not something that solely exists within a person.
 - Gender can and has varied over time, place, culture, and society based on several factors including *level* of productive forces.
 - Gender should also be treated as a spectrum with a multitude of possibilities.
 - If you do not know a person’s pronouns for certain, use the term “they” when referring to them in writing.
 - Neo-Pronouns
 - 1.) **Do not use** neo-pronouns unless you are interviewing someone who uses them for their own identification.
- Party Line on Gender Affirming Care for Youth
 - Do not bring up physical “sex changes” when talking about minors. Most doctors will not perform transition surgery on anyone under the age of 18.
 - All talk of transgender healthcare when concerning minors should focus on therapy, hormonal, and gender-affirming treatments (including social transition) that are recommended by medical professionals for under-age peoples.