WOMENONTHERISEGA.ORG

TOGETHER IN LANGUAGE

WORDS THAT UNITE: A GUIDE TO INCLUSIVE TERMINOLOGY

Understanding the power of words can help us better recognize the white supremacist systems that work to oppress and destroy entire communities. When we reclaim or replace harmful language, we disrupt dominant narratives by inserting what we know to be right and true. Many words that carry negative meaning come to mind quickly. When thinking about these words, consider how their use has harmed communities.

Even when it's unintentional, our language can hurt those around us. While this is not an exhaustive guide, taking steps to learn and use inclusive language brings us closer to a world where we all thrive, not just survive.

WOMEN ON THE RISE

TRY THIS..NOT THAT

INCLUSIVE TERMINOLOGY

USE THIS

- INCARCERATED PERSON
- FORMERLY INCARCERATED
- JUSTICE IMPACTED PERSON
- PERSON LIVING WITH A DISABILITY
- SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
- PERSON WITH A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
- UNDOCUMENTED PERSON
- PERSON LIVING WITH A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION

INSTEAD OF THIS

- INMATE
- FELON
- CRIMINAL
- HANDICAPPED
- DRUG ABUSE
- DRUG ADDICT
- CRACKHEAD
- ILLEGAL ALIEN
- CRAZY/PYSCHO

PRONOUNS

Pronouns hold profound significance in our language and communication, serving as a means of referring to individuals. **They are not a recent development, and have always been used to convey meaning.** Just as using the wrong name for someone is widely recognized as disrespectful, misusing pronouns too is disrespectful. Pronouns align with a person's identity and, like a name, should be honored to create inclusive and respectful environments. **No one's gender is clear from how they present, therefore pronouns should never be assumed.**

HOW TO

ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS:
Avoid assumptions by using open-ended queries like "What are your pronouns?", or "How should I refer to you?".

ENCOURAGE PRONOUN SHARING:
Foster inclusivity by leading the way - share your pronouns first to create a welcoming environment for others to do the same. **Remember, you use pronouns every day.**

EXAMPLES:
Alex is a great friend, *she* is so easy to talk to!
Alex is a great friend, *they* are so easy to talk to!
Alex is a great friend, *he* is so easy to talk to!
Alex is a great friend, *ze* is so easy to talk to!