

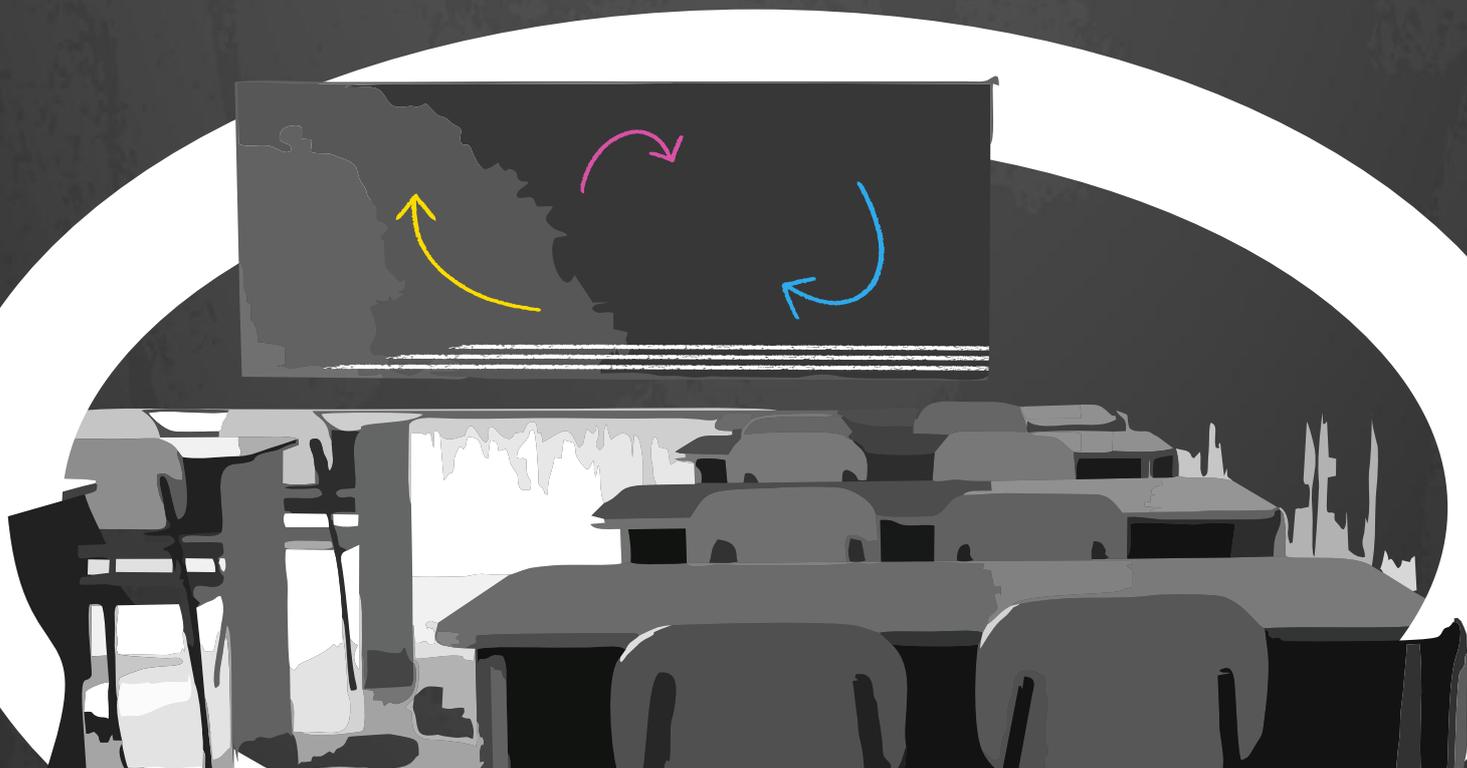


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ACTIVITY AGAINST TRANSPHOBIA

**KITS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS**



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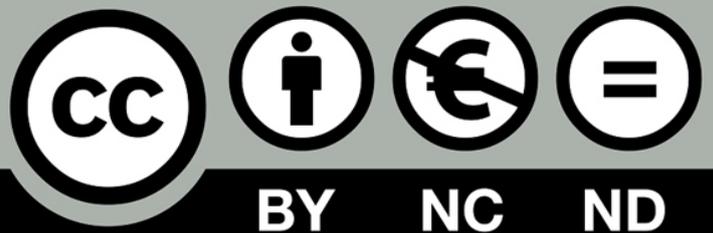
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“TRANS” LIFE STORIES

This activity intends to bring the reality of transsexual people closer to the students, to break their myths and prejudices along with previous misconceptions that interfere with the development of positive attitudes towards transsexuality. To do this, this activity will show the life stories of landmark transsexual individuals in Europe.

Level: Easy. Secondary Education.

Group size: big group.

Length: 50 minutes.

Topics: Sexual-affective diversity, LGBTQ+, transphobia.

Objectives:

- Knowing the reality that transsexual people live, to generate empathy.
- Analyzing the stereotypes and prejudices towards transsexual people to avoid discrimination.

Materials: writing tools.

Preparation: Copy the materials in the “resources” section and cut it to distribute it to the students.

Instructions:

To start the session, ask for 5 volunteers. It is highly recommended that both male and female students participate. Each of them will be assigned one of the “trans” people described in the resources section.

Each of the participants will read the biography of their character and tell how their life has been to the rest of the students.

The rest of the students who have not been assigned a character will ask questions to better understand the life and experiences of these transsexual figures from Europe played by their classmates.

Sharing:

The following questions may serve as a reference:

- Have you had difficulties in your job for being a trans person?
- Do you think that if you had not been a trans man/woman life would've been easier?
- Did you suffer bullying for being trans?
- In what aspects of your life have you suffered discrimination because of your gender identity?
- ...

If you don't know the answer to any of the questions, search for more information online about the lives of these people.

Tips:

Focus and moderate the debate to discuss the obstacles a trans person faces due to their gender identity, as well as ways to overcome them and become a person of reference due to their success.

This is about trying to generate empathy by putting oneself in the place of these people, thus avoiding prejudice.

Variations:

In addition to the biographies of trans referents in the resources section, you can search for the biographies of other trans people that the students know or are more interested in.

Also, depending on the size of the group, you can vary the number of people and students playing roles.

Ideas:

It can be interesting to invite a transsexual person, either from an LGBTQ+ organization or from the school itself who has “come out” so they can tell what their life is like, and how they managed to overcome the obstacles they face due to their gender identity.

Resources:

The biographies collected here are a small selection of those compiled by the Euphoria Association in its trans reference materials:

Lara Martorell

Born in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, in 1987. She is an actress who became known in the series “Servir y Proteger” (2017, TVE), playing inspector Ángela Betanzos, becoming the first trans actress to join the cast of a daily Spanish series to interpret the role of a trans character.

From an early age she began to train in the world of acting; when she was 7 years old, she began studying at the Ses Voltes school in Palma de Mallorca, after finishing high school she went to London to continue her studies at The Actor's Temple. Then, in Madrid, she taught seminars at Cristina Rota school and obtained the Diploma for Film and Television from Central del Cine.

Among her film work, “Pullman” (2019) stands out, and in 2020 she participated in the ATresMedia series “Veneno”, playing “La Fany”.

Jonas Ben Ahmed

Born in Lyon, France, in 1991. He was the first trans actor in a French television series. After making his sexual identity public, he was forced to leave the family home. He began higher studies at the University of Lyon, but economic difficulties forced him to abandon them.

When he saw the ad for the casting looking for a trans actor to play a trans man, he applied and that is how he began to work in the series “Plus Belle la Vie” (2004) on the France 3 Channel, which allowed him to combine his passion for acting with the opportunity to tell a trans life experience.

In 2018 he won the Out d'Or award for LGBTQ+ personality of the year; these awards recognize artists, journalists and personalities who have embodied a positive representation of LGBTQ+ people.

In 2020 he played the role of Niel in the film “A Good Man” (2020), by Marie-Castille Mention Schaar. The film suffered some criticism for casting a cis actress to play a trans man, perpetuating the idea that a trans man is actually a woman.

Max Wolf Valerio

Born in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1957. He is a poet, writer, essayist and actor. Since his childhood he felt that he did not fit the identity that had been assigned to him, and after many years trying to find an answer, he found it thanks to a trans friend and roommate. It was then, at 31 years old, when he made his social transition. That same year he founded the “FTM Organization” in San Francisco, directed by Lou Sullivan.

He is the author of books such as “The Criminal: The Invisibility of Parallel Forces” and “The Testosterone Files: My Hormonal and Social Transformation from Female to Male”, and has collaborated in the edition of many other well-known titles: “When My Boyfriend Was a Girl: A Memoir” and “Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics”, among others.

He has also acted in movies and appeared in numerous documentaries such as “Unhung Heroes”, “Gendernauts: A Journey Through Shifting”, and most famously, “MAX”, where Valerio talks about his experience of the perceptual, emotional, and physical change with testosterone. The film was a groundbreaking exploration of the experience of trans men in the 1990s.

Petra de Sutter

Born in Oudenaarde, Belgium, in 1963. She is a gynecologist and Green Party politician and Deputy Prime Minister in the Belgian government since 2020, in charge of public service and public companies.

She worked as a professor of Gynecology at Ghent University, and was head of the Department of Reproductive Medicine at the University Hospital of Ghent (UZ Gent) when she became part of the Belgian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, from 2014 to 2019. She was a member of the European Parliament from 2019 to 2020.

In politics, she has addressed important issues: a regulation for surrogacy at the Belgian and European level, independent clinical research in the pharmaceutical industry, the risks of the free trade agreement between the European Union and the United States for the protection of consumers of food and chemicals, and the defense of LGBTQ+ rights.

On October 1, 2020, De Sutter swore in as one of the seven deputy prime ministers in Prime Minister Alexander De Croo's government, becoming the most senior trans politician in Europe.

Nino Mick

Born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1990. They are a poet currently living in Gothenburg, where they were vice-president of the city's House of Literature and works as a train conductor.

In 2013, they won the National Poetry Slam Championship, a scenic poetry competition in which the participants (or “slammers”) have 3 minutes to present texts of their own authorship to an audience using only their body and voice.

After self-publishing a series of librettos, in 2018 their first book “Tjugofemtusen Kilometer Nervtrådar” (Twenty Five Thousand Kilometers of Nerve Fibers) was published by Norstedts, the oldest publisher in Sweden.

An interpreter since 2014, Nino has performed in Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, France, and the United Kingdom, as well as in Spain online. They perform in Swedish and English.

Gender, sexuality, families, god, climate change, natural sciences, and art history are some of the many themes that Nino combines in his poetry.

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