

Handy Dandy Cheat Sheet for Recognizing Common Anti-Queer/Trans Disinfo

Everyone knows the Proud Boys are a bunch of 'phobes. But what about that latest NYT piece on the dangers of puberty blockers, forwarded by your essential oil-loving uncle? Or the radical feminist friend who thinks transition is the epitome of internalized misogyny and capitalist individualism?

Especially when it comes to trans health care, anti-LGBT movements often take advantage of people's lack of familiarity with queer and trans lives, laundering far right disinformation and conspiracy theory as rational concern or science-based skepticism (often framed as "just asking questions" or fostering good faith "discussion" between "both sides"). Talking points based on laundered disinfo then become state policy, providing legal justification for restricting the access of LGBTQ people—especially trans people—to public life and even physical existence.

As we weather a brutal season of eliminationist legislation backed by a rising tide of stochastic terrorism, it's important to recognize common forms of anti-trans medical disinfo, so that when we encounter it in media, policy or everyday conversation, we can push back.

Common Dogwhistles: A Drinking Game

trans-identifying	transgenderism	irreversible damage
cross-sex hormones	social contagion	transition regret
natal female/male	Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria (ROGD)	desistance
LGB (dropping the T)	mutilation	safeguarding
sex-based rights	removal of healthy tissue	autogynephilia/AGP
gender ideology	chemical castration	"Gender Exploratory Therapy"

Common Talking Points: If you hear these, red flag!

There are legitimate questions about the safety and effectiveness of gender affirming care. We just don't know enough.

The UK, Sweden, Finland have all commissioned expert review of the evidence for gender affirming care and found it very weak or inconclusive.

The medical community says gender affirming care is safe because they're profiting off gender nonconforming youth by creating patients for life.

80% of youth claiming to be trans will eventually go back to identifying with their birth sex.

The frontal cortex doesn't stop developing until age 25, meaning young people can't truly consent to blockers, hormones or surgery.

Transition is conversion therapy for kids who would otherwise be gay or lesbian. We're losing our young gay men and lesbians to gender ideology.

The number of teen girls identifying as trans has skyrocketed in the last decade due to the influence of social media and doctors/therapists/parents who automatically affirm.

Kids are calling themselves trans but really they're just dealing with underlying trauma, autism, ADHD, internalized homophobia, misogyny or porn addiction.

There are no safeguards in place on gender affirming care for youth. Providers and clinics are failing to provide comprehensive evaluations before prescribing irreversible medical interventions.

Affirming pronouns is a slippery slope to irreversible medical intervention.

Suicide rates for trans youth are overstated and manipulated.

There is no evidence transition reduces suicide risk in young people; actually it increases risk of suicide long term.

Commonly cited "expert" organizations and researchers. Big red flags!

Genspect
Society for Evidence Based
Gender Medicine
American College of
Pediatricians
Gender Dysphoria Alliance

Lisa Littman
Lisa Marchiano
Stella O'Malley
James Cantor
Kenneth Zucker
Ray Blanchard
J. Michael Bailey

For the full list, see
Health Liberation Now's
"Anti-Trans Conversion
Therapy Map of Influence":
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8hnbk5>

And watch out for these anti-trans hate groups that recruit from the left:

LGB Alliance
4thwavenow

Women's Liberation Front (WoLF)
Women's Declaration International
Deep Green Resistance

Any crunchy white feminist talking about being "politically homeless"

If you hear anyone reference these common dogwhistles, talking points or "experts," you can be pretty they're echoing disinformation from anti-trans movements and spaces. If they're family or friends, you might not be able to talk them out of it, given that these views are often rooted in conspiracy theory rather than fact or evidence. But definitely challenge any media or policy discussion that references any of the above.

So what does the science say?

See Cornell University's extensive review of the peer-reviewed literature:
<https://tinyurl.com/3kmftdfz>

See Yale School of Medicine's careful critique of the pseudoscience cited by anti-trans legislation in TX, FL, and AL: <https://tinyurl.com/4rr5w8h6>

Where can I find smart trans/queer analysis of health care, policy, and media?

Alejandra Caraballo (Twitter: @Esqueer_)
Assigned Media (assignedmedia.org)
Erin Reed (erininthemorn.substack.com/)
Florence Ashley (Twitter: @ButNotTheCity)
Jules Gill-Peterson (sadbrowngirl.substack.com/)
Health Liberation Now! (healthliberationnow.org)
Heron Greensmith (Twitter: @herong)
Translash Media (translash.org)
Trans Safety Network (transsafety.network)
Trans Journalist Association (transjournalists.org)



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