

Having basic human rights should be the bare minimum for every single person. There will be people who disagree with that. No one is better than anyone else in inherent worth. People, not monsters, choose to be violent toward our fellow brothers and sisters, friends, and loved ones just because they don't fit their ideals. Any version of family that makes you feel safe, loved, important and strong is a good family. We all pump blood to our hearts and brains. There is no difference between cis people which just means same, and trans people which means opposite. If you identify with the body you were given, that is great. If you don't that's okay, too. "We the people" is supposed to mean we are stronger together. People should be able to live in peace without being scared for their lives if the wrong person finds out who they really are. And

the beginning of that is respecting individuality.

You don't have to agree with anything to be a respectful human being. It does not matter what is in someone's pants unless you are planning to be intimate with them or you are their doctor. It's none of your business whether their preferred pronouns "match" your expectation of them. Your neighbors, coworkers, strangers on the street all have pronouns. For those who may not know, a pronoun is an identifier. It's a word that stands in for the proper name to reduce having to repeat the name over and over. For example, I, me, you, your, he, him, his, she, her, hers are all pronouns. There are some new ones that can vary from person to person. And language changes all the time. If you don't know a stranger's gender or name it's proper to call them by the pronoun 'they' singular. I go by

the pronouns they/them/theirs because it feels the most natural to me. Just like he or she or any other pronoun feels right to the individual.

Think about close relationships with your loved ones. If you switch places with someone and imagine your son or daughter, maybe your mom, dad, best friend, or grandpa comes out as trans or non-binary. Does that change who they are? Does your friend or loved one expressing what's in their heart change their value to you? Do you love them just as much as before they said these words? This is a moment of vulnerability that not everyone will understand. Whoever is coming out and asking for your consideration to respect their pronouns has shown you they care enough to make sure you know the authentic person inside.

They risk losing friends, family, even housing just to live as their true self.

Now let's go a little deeper. Imagine yourself waking up tomorrow. Instead of the body you remember, it's a different shape. Parts of you are the opposite of what you feel they should be. You lived your whole life up to this point believing that was your true identity and you never questioned it because it felt natural. Now you feel as if someone has vacuum sealed your skin, it's too tight, uncomfortable. You can deal with it but every once in a while it really weighs on you. You put on the clothes you wore yesterday but they fit differently. Nothing feels right. The idea of buying different clothes makes no sense because the ones you have are the ones you've always wanted to wear. But people judge you for wearing your clothes

because they assume the shape of your body dictates your life. You just wish you could show people on the outside who you are inside. You want them to see the real you.

It doesn't matter what shape, size, or color of skin someone occupies. It is only the outer shell. The person inside is what makes that body special. Each person has a different experience in life. Having respect for others experiences is part of living in society with many cultures and backgrounds. I want to see the realness of people. I want to know their struggle and understand them. I may not understand why someone makes the decisions they do but if I just listen maybe I will learn to acknowledge others experiences whether I agree with the action or not. They are a human with the choice to learn from

mistakes and understand each other
better or deny themselves that opportunity.