



# Safe Space

## March 2014 Newsletter

**EMAIL US:**  
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### March is Gender Equality Month!

This month gives us a chance to stop and remember the obstacles we have faced throughout history, the hindrances of today, and the challenges we must overcome in the future.

**Contact Us!**  
Safe Space, Inc.  
P.O. Box 594  
Butte, MT 59703  
(406) 782-9807

**Our staff is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year! We are committed to providing excellent advocacy and resources for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.**

### ADVOCACY

An Advocate can help with:

- ∞ Emergency Shelter
- ∞ Locating community resources
- ∞ Court Accompaniment
- ∞ Safety Planning
- ∞ Emotional Support

### Defining Gender

Let's start with how gender used to be defined, from The New American Webster Dictionary, Copyright 1972:

gender: n., in grammar, the classification as masculine, feminine, or neuter.

Here is how it is defined by today's standards, from Dictionary.com, Copyright 2014:

gender: n. 1. a. *grammar* a set of classes that together include all nouns, membership in a particular class being shown by the form of the noun itself or by the form or choice of words that modify, replace, or otherwise refer to the noun, as, in English, the choice of he to replace man, of she to replace woman, of it to replace table, of it or she to replace ship. The number of genders in different languages varies from 2 to 20; often the classification correlates in part with sex or animateness. The most familiar sets of genders are of three classes (as masculine, feminine, or neuter in Latin or German) or of two (as common and neuter in Dutch, or masculine and feminine in French and Spanish).

b. one class of such a set.

c. such classes or sets collectively or in general



d. membership of a word or grammatical form or an inflectual form showing membership, in such a class.

2. sex: the feminine gender.

3. kind, sort, or class.

Please join us in congratulating our new and promoted staff members!

- ∞ **Sabrina White,**  
*Executive Director*
- ∞ **Christina Crosby,**  
*Shelter Manager*
- ∞ **Robyn Read,**  
*Volunteer Coordinator*
- ∞ **Sandra Mellott,**  
*Weekend Advocate*

**24 HOUR  
CRISIS LINE:  
(406) 782-8511**

**The only problems with the constructs of gender occur when someone feels obligated to follow them.**





## How Society Clouds Gender Equality

“The soul has no gender.”  
—Clarissa Pinkola Estes

Society has played a large role in defining gender. We are taught throughout the course of our lives the differences between feminine and masculine through our families and the roles they play, the toys we are given as children and the movies and television shows that portray rigid female and male leading roles. However, it doesn't stop there. Magazines, music, books, academic tracking toward gender-based careers, pay differences, and the general ideology of proper behaviors of men and women have all clouded our perception that all genders can be equal.

The good news is, there is something we can do. The children are the future; instilling acceptance and respect for all others is key to changing society's portrayal of gender. Parents, talk to your kids. Point out people in gender based positions: a male nurse, a female construction worker, a male hair stylist, a female police officer- and have your child focus on attributes other than gender. How did the male nurse make them feel? What did the female construction worker do to make the road better? Did they enjoy the hair cut from the male hair stylist? Focusing on other characteris-

tics outside gender will give your children a better understanding of others, and a greater respect for the opposite sex.

Gender equality isn't just about the differences of men and women. It is about understanding and respecting the differences of everyone, whether they are cisgender (traditionally, man or woman), transgender (man living as woman, or woman living as man) or anything in between, and honoring the golden rule that has been burned into our memories since childhood: treat others as you would want to be treated.

“If women are expected to do the same work as men, we must teach them the same things.”  
— Plato, The Republic

### Gender is...



a spectrum



a range of expression



how you relate to yourself

HELLO  
my name is

Me!

a personal identity

### Gender is not..



just male or female



defined by body parts



sexual orientation



determined by chromosomes

“Love is not getting high on fantasies of romance, the perfect lover, absolute happiness and sexual ecstasy. Love is based on a two way communication and respect, and that only exists between equals.” — Anselma Dell’Olio

“All through life there were distinctions - toilets for men, toilets for women; clothes for men, clothes for women - then, at the end, the graves are identical.” — Leila Aboulela, *Minaret*

## Online Articles about Gender Equality

- ∞ [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender\\_equality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_equality)
- ∞ [www.unfpa.org/gender/](http://www.unfpa.org/gender/)
- ∞ [www.un.org/millenniumgoals/gender.shtml](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/gender.shtml)
- ∞ [ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/)
- ∞ [www.unicef.org/gender/](http://www.unicef.org/gender/)
- ∞ [www.astrientfoundation.org/](http://www.astrientfoundation.org/)

## Good Reads...

- ∞ [\*Jane Addams and the Dream of American Democracy\* by Jean Bethke Elshtain](#)
- ∞ [\*Sex, Art, and American Culture: Essays\* by Camille Paglia](#)
- ∞ [\*Who Stole Feminism?: How Women Have Betrayed Women\* by Christina Hoff Sommers](#)
- ∞ [\*Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics\* by Bell Hooks](#)
- ∞ [\*The Feminine Mystique\* by Betty Friedan](#)
- ∞ [\*Feminist Philosophy And Science Fiction: Utopias And Dystopias\* by Judith A. Little](#)



## The Flocks Are Coming! The Flocks Are Coming!

### April Flocking Brings Awareness

You can flock a friend, family member, or neighbor for a donation of \$20. Upon receipt of your order form and donation, a volunteer will secretly place a Flock of Flamingos in the front yard of the address you provided during the month of April. Flamingos and signs will be delivered in the evening, and will remain in the yard for no more than 24 hours.

Volunteers will be needed in the next few weeks to help with the annual Flamingo Flocking Awareness event. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer to help with donation requests/pick ups, flocking any day in the month of April, or to help set up/clean up at the Flock Party, please contact our office.

Please contact our office at 406-782-9807, visit us online, or email us for further details.

### Join Us for Flamingo Fun on May 3rd!

The Third Annual Flock Party will be another fun-filled night with live entertainment, fantastic food, and amazing auction items.

**Saturday, May 3rd, 2014**

**6:00 PM—10:00 PM**

**The Mystic Ballroom (rear of the Thunder Alley)**

**821 S. Montana St, Butte**

**Live, Silent, and Dutch Auctions!**

**Door Prizes!**

**50/50 Raffle**

**And more!**

Visit our Website! [www.safespaceonline.org](http://www.safespaceonline.org)



# Gender Equality—No Laughing Matter

