



# THE BRIEN CENTER

**Diversity • Equity • Inclusion • Belonging**

*Your courage, our care.*

## NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

### INTERNATIONAL NON BINARY PEOPLES DAY

International Non-Binary People's Day is observed each year on July 14th and is aimed at raising awareness and organising around the issues faced by non-binary people around the world. The day was first celebrated in 2012, started by Katje van Loon. The date was chosen for being precisely midway between International Men's Day and International Women Day.

Most countries in the world do not recognize non-binary as a legal gender, meaning most self-identified non-binary people still have a passport matching their sex and official identification. Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and New Zealand include non-binary gender options on passports, and 23 US states plus Washington DC allow residents to mark their gender as 'X' on their driving licence.



### INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Because there are many different gender expressions, try to avoid using binary language that assumes there are only two. Use all genders instead of both genders, opposite sex, or either sex. If referring to biological sex alone, use female, male, or intersex.

### NATIONAL TATTOO DAY

National Tattoo Day on July 17th recognizes the history, culture, and artists dedicated to etching ink permanently on the skin. This day has been observed since 2016.

The word "tattoo" is derived from the Polynesian language for tatau, which means "to tap or to mark." For millennia, peoples around the world have tattooed human skin to communicate various ontological, psychosocial, and sociocultural concepts encompassing beauty, cultural identity, status and position, medicine, and supernatural protection. As a system of knowledge transmission, tattooing has been and continues to be a visual language of the skin whereby culture is inscribed, experienced, and preserved in a myriad of specific ways.



### NON-BINARY

The term "non-binary" is something of an umbrella term for gender identities that exist beyond the "gender binary", which states that there are only two genders, being male and female. An individual who identifies as non-binary is someone who doesn't identify as exclusively a man or woman. They may feel that they identify as multiple genders, or perhaps as none at all (often known as agender). They might be gender-fluid, and feel a stronger connection to certain genders over time.

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEI Committee?  
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