

Activity 2.4: Identifying trans microaggressions – PDF format

Task:

For this activity you are asked to match the description to the quote.

The descriptions are (in no particular order):

1. A clinician showing a poor understanding of trans people's experiences (cultural competency)
2. A person in a commercial context treating a trans person differently than other customers (discrimination)
3. People giving a trans person in a public space inappropriate and/or hostile attention (objectification)
4. Someone repeatedly using the wrong gender pronoun (intentional misgendering)
5. A person being dismissive of the validity of trans people's needs and experiences (denial of authenticity).

The quotes are (in no particular order):

1. 'A guy in my office was basically transphobic... [he repeatedly] referred to me in the wrong pronouns and stuff. I literally felt suicidal driving home one night when I'd had that again.'
2. '[Pre-transition], I didn't have every f***er on the street staring at me every day of the f***ing year. I didn't have people stage whispering about me in the pub. I didn't have people looking at me with absolute contempt.'
3. 'I was getting interest from estate agents, but as soon as they had an inkling, when you gave them your name and it didn't match the voice, it was like interviews and visits and whatever never came off.'
4. 'The awkwardness of one's GP of like, I mean he wrote my referral like "she feels like a man" blah, blah, blah... I was like I am a man, I'm not a woman who wants to be a man.'
5. '[My GP] called it a lifestyle choice when I first went there and said that it'll take a long time to do this because everybody else needs to go before you, that are in... act as though it's not a real condition. People with real conditions go before you.'

Answer:

The correct answers, in chronological order of the quotes are:

1. 'A guy in my office was basically transphobic... [he repeatedly] referred to me in the wrong pronouns and stuff. I literally felt suicidal driving home one night when I'd had that again.': **Someone repeatedly using the wrong gender pronoun (intentionally misgendering).**
2. '[Pre-transition], I didn't have every f***er on the street staring at me every day of the f***ing year. I didn't have people stage whispering about me in the pub. I didn't have people looking at me with absolute contempt.': **People giving a trans person in a public space inappropriate and/or hostile attention (objectification).**
3. 'I was getting interest from estate agents, but as soon as they had an inkling, when you gave them your name and it didn't match the voice, it was like interviews and visits and whatever never came off.': **A person in a commercial context treating a trans person differently than other customers (discrimination).**
4. 'The awkwardness of one's GP of like, I mean he wrote my referral like "she feels like a man" blah, blah, blah... I was like I am a man, I'm not a woman who wants to be a man.': **A clinician showing a poor understanding of trans people's experiences (cultural competency).**
5. '[My GP] called it a lifestyle choice when I first went there and said that it'll take a long time to do this because everybody else needs to go before you, that are in... act as though it's not a real condition. People with real conditions go before you.': **A person being dismissive of the validity of trans people's needs and experiences (denial of authenticity).**