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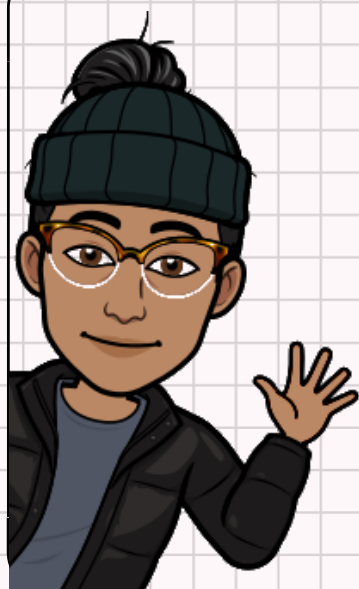
EXCLUSIONARY PRACTICES & POLICIES AFFECTING TRANS* OLYMPIANS

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**PREPARED BY:
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& LOGAN WONG**



Name: Logan
Pronouns: He/Him



Name: Mary
Pronouns: They/Them



Hi I'm Logan!
Hey, I'm Mary!
We are both
trans*athletes.

**TRANS* ATHLETES FACE
A NUMBER OF HURDLES**

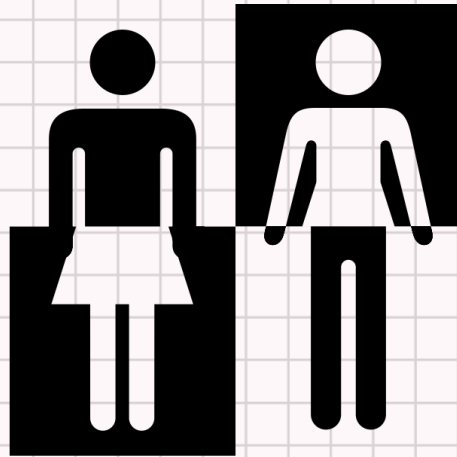




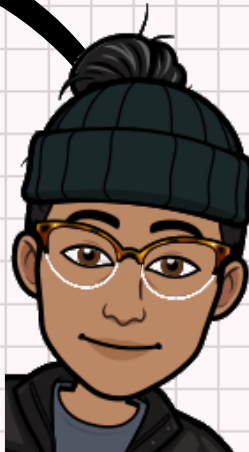
SPORT IS DIVIDED INTO RIGID GENDER BINARIES



Locker room culture reinforces these binaries, as well as conventional heteronormative beliefs. It creates a culture where discrimination is acceptable.



"Transphobic and homophobic language were constantly used by my sports peers, so I felt like I could not be myself around them. As a gender non-conforming person, I never felt physically or emotionally safe in either the men's or women's locker rooms."



"As a transgender disabled/para athlete, I chose to disengage from sport because of the prejudice, sexist, racist, and homophobic so-called banter. Even though I identified as male I wasn't comfortable with the discriminatory conversations happening in the locker room, knowing the impacts of discrimination from my pre-transition experiences in sport."

1

Gender binary persists in sports around the world through the clear conflicts between biological, social and cultural ways of understanding bodies.

2

Sports science and sports organizations privilege male or masculine-identifying bodies over others.



SPORTS REINFORCES THE MEDICALIZATION OF GENDER

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Athletes who are not trans* accept these gender binaries just as they are because it does not negatively impact them, which further makes trans* athletes invisible in sport.

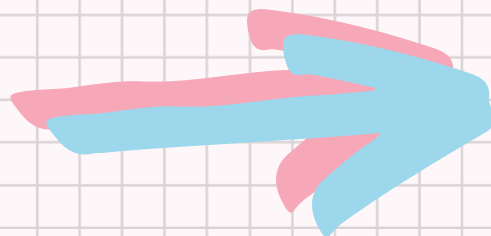
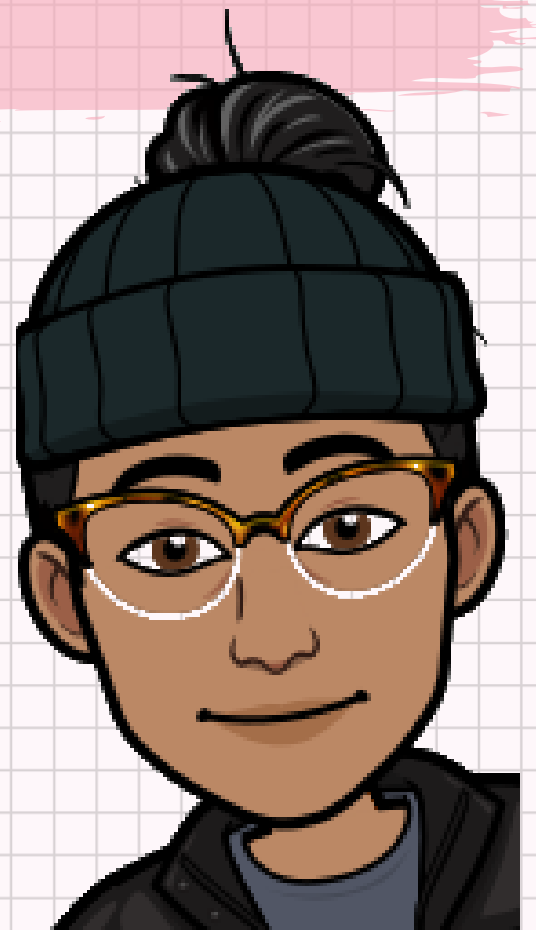
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'Male to female' or feminine-identifying trans* athletes are surveilled more heavily because they are perceived to have more testosterone in their bodies as they are biologically male, and testosterone is seen as a performance enhancing hormone.



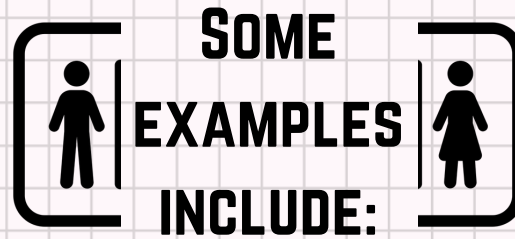
CONVENTIONAL HETERONORMATIVE BELIEFS MANIFEST THEMSELVES INTO EXCLUSIONARY PRACTICES

Logan and I challenge society's hegemonic heteronormative beliefs, which automatically "other's" us. Heteronormativity can be displayed overtly and/or subtly in and out of sport. It is so embedded within our society, we can't even notice it at times.





Sports can reproduce exclusionary practices through perpetuating clear constructs of maleness/man-ness and femaleness/woman-ness.



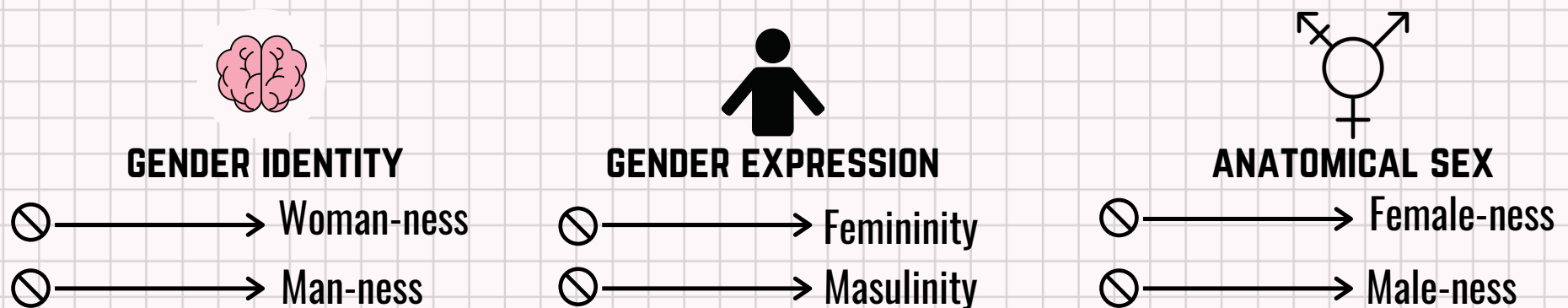
The premise of the Olympics being strictly gender-binary in all of their competitions.

The overall lack of education on trans* athletes related to pronouns, safety, and fairness within sports communities.

If athletes are pre-transition, they may be required to use the changeroom of their biological sex, which inherently forces them to reject their true identity and effectively excludes them.

Trans* athletes aren't just female-to-male, or male-to-female people. There are many other gender identities on the continuum.

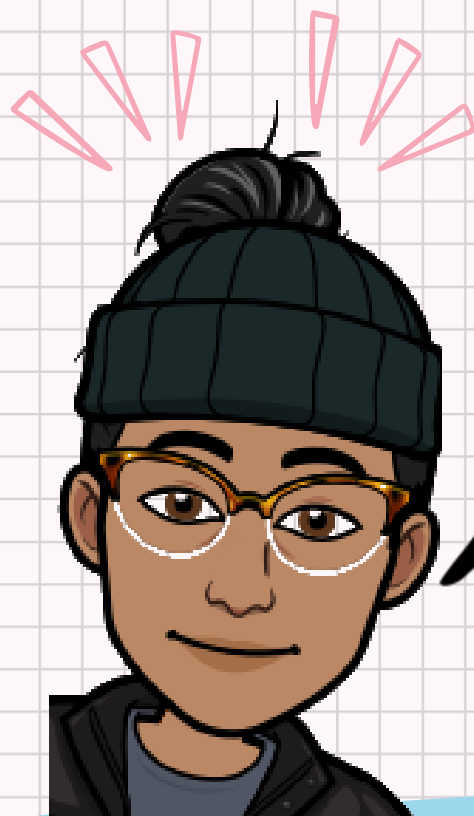
We are athletes that exist too, but we have WAY more difficulties and restrictions that are barriers in accessing competitive sport.



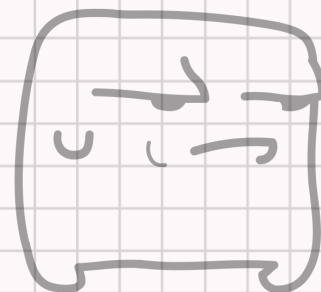
(Source: <https://www.genderbread.org>)

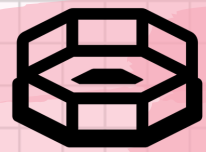
 **THE IOC'S CURRENT TRANS*
INCLUSIVE POLICIES STILL
UPHOLD HETERONORMATIVITY**

SO...WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE LIKE MARY?



As a gender non-conforming (GNC) being, there's scarce research on me. I barely exist in policy, practices, and sport culture. I really don't see myself, or fit anywhere in sport.





FALLON FOX'S STORY

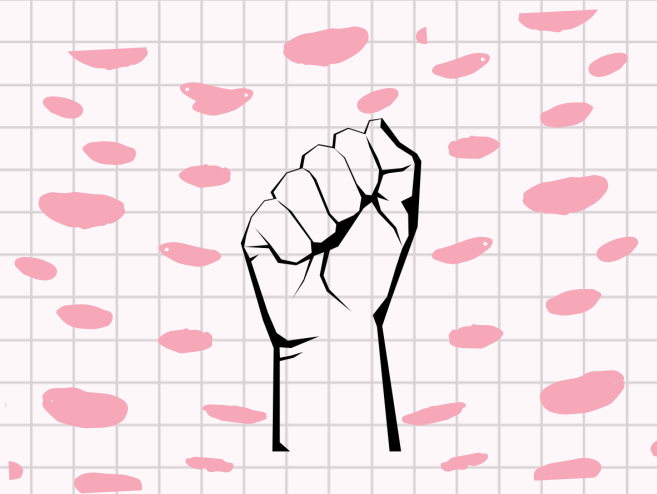
HELLO!



Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighter, Fallon Fox, came out as a trans* woman in 2013, but her career was jeopardized by transphobia and painful interactions leading to fewer matches and sporting opportunities.

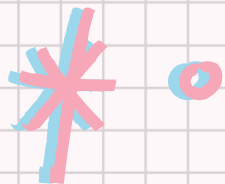


MMA is hyper-focused on strength and fighting abilities, which culturally has been considered masculine and, perhaps, contributes to the contested belief of any potential significant biological advantages in terms of sporting performance.



Fallon's presence in MMA is in it of itself, activism. Her experience is one of MANY examples that shed light on how transphobic issues stem from heteronormativity and patriarchy. This informs the recommendations we can make to foster consistency in supportive policies/practices at all levels of competitive sport.

🏁 WE ARE NOT AT THE FINISH LINE YET 🕒



IOC has established policies supporting and protecting trans* olympians; that's good!



BUT, NOT ALL COUNTRIES SUPPORT TRANS* ATHLETES.

26

countries, use public order offences to criminalise trans* people.

Some countries aren't at a social, or political place to discuss trans* issues.



These statistics matter because it affects sport participation and the success of trans* folk in athletics.

15

jurisdictions criminalize the gender expression of trans* and gender diverse people.

70

countries criminalize gay sex; many countries' police and other state officials target trans* people.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT TRANS* ATHLETES IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

It's our responsibility to create safer and more inclusive spaces for trans* folx in competitive sport!

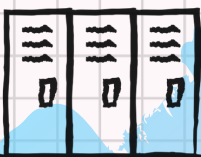


Modeling respectful behaviour, such as honouring athletes pronouns.



Educate athletes, coaches, & other sports personnel about trans* athletes. Challenge your own notions of gender roles and expectations. DO NOT expect trans* people to be responsible for educating you.

Support & Listen!
Allow trans* people to control who they tell about their identity and how they tell them.



Be proactive with issues related to restroom and locker room options for trans* athletes. Protecting the privacy of trans* athletes should be top priority.

Everyone's journey is unique and different. Some trans* people use hormones, some do not. Some have surgery, many do not.

(Mosier, 2020;
Morris & Van Raalte, 2016)

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