TG FOCUS The world from a transgender perspective



Proud of my Daughter: A mother's tale of her daughter coming out

Pride on the Costa Blanca



"There will not be a magic day when we wake up and it's now okay to express ourselves publicly. We make that day by doing things publicly until it's simply the way things are." – Tammy Baldwin Hi Everyone,

It's June already and our third edition. It's been a bit of a learning curve getting the balance right of our content, and we think we are getting there. The tights, cardies and jackets have been consigned to the winter wardrobe, the clothes are getting lighter, dare I say shorter and brown legs are a must.

There's a delay in publishing this month so we can bring you exclusive pics from our Orihuela Costa Pride that took place on 1st June. A full round up of the day's events will be featured in the July edition.

This month we have some fabulous features for you to enjoy, especially a delightful and inciteful interview with Nicky, whose daughter came out as transgender a year ago. We look back at transgender and LGBTQ+ icon Julia Grant and how she negotiated her way through a series of BBC documentaries many years ago. If you've never heard of the Trevor Project, we have a feature on them and their involvement with actor and transgender ally, Daniel Radcliffe.

We take a look back to the roots of the Pride movement and our monthly look at Trans news stories.

Thank you to those who have contributed ideas, articles, and feedback. Once again, we thank you for reading and supporting us. We are always looking for contributions from our readers to include in future editions. Whether it be personal experiences, opinions or photoshoots, send them to us and hopefully we can use them in the future.

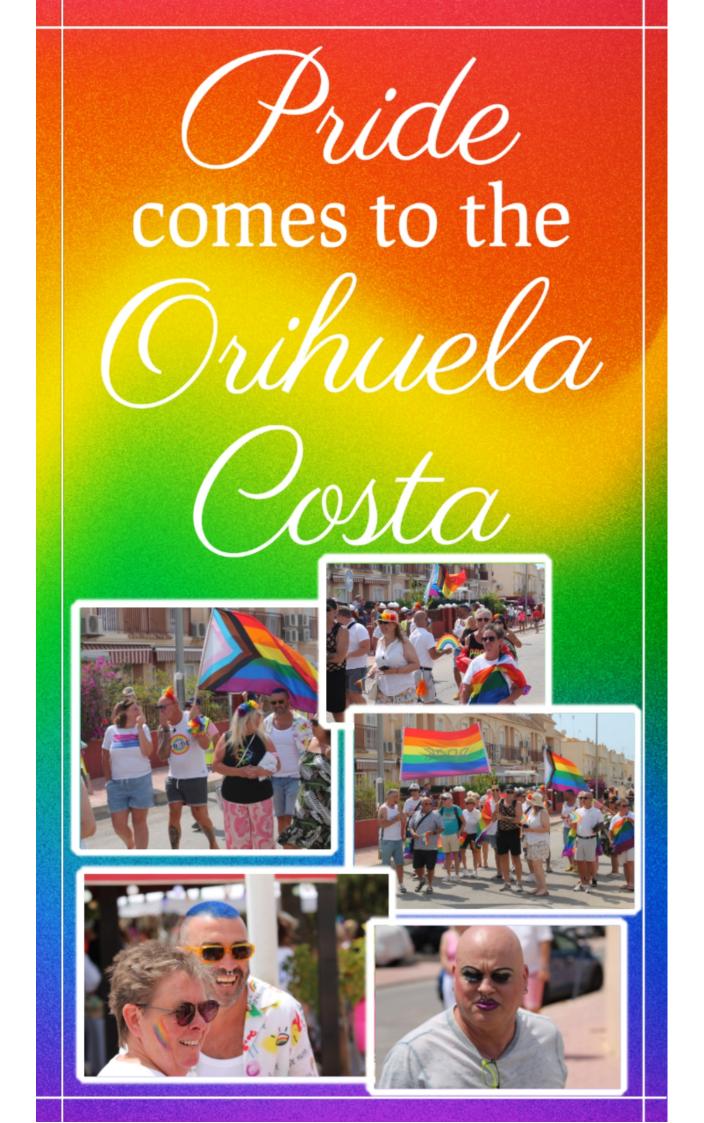
Have a lovely month,

Lots of love,

Carla & Penny xx

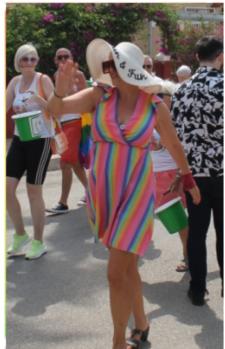
PS. Please let us know what you think of the magazine and any suggestions for articles or features you would like to see.

Email: transgenderfocus@gmail.com





















For many of the locals this would have been their first experience of Pride. With cameras in their hands, they snapped continuously as the parade walked and danced by. Enthusiastic supporters lined the route, cheering and waving banners of acceptance.













The organisers went the extra distance to make this amazing event work and following the parade, the entertainment commenced into the afternoon and well into the evening.









My Transgender Daughter came out to me a year ago. -The story of a parent

Nicky agreed to be interviewed by us so that it may help other people in similar situations. The photos used for illustration were taken by Nicky at a live concert by the artist Cavetown. We met Nicky and chatted for an hour...

How long have you lived in Spain?

Nicky moved to Spain from the UK four years ago. I came with my husband and the child I thought was my son, looking for a better, more relaxed lifestyle. We already had family here and the impending ramifications of Brexit made it imperative that we did it there and then, a now or never decision.

What was your understanding of transgender people before your daughter came out?

Most people of our age weren't brought up knowing much about transgender people. I vaguely remember a TV programme about transgender surgery when I was about seven or eight years old. It seemed quite scary, and I remember thinking why would anyone do that? There was a lot of discussion about LGB people, and I knew about cross dressers and what we called Transvestites but not an awful lot.

I worked in the defence industry in the late 90's, which was quite a macho environment. I remember being told by our customer that one of their colleagues was a transgender woman and that she would be attending the next meeting. I knew my boss would also be there and was conflicted about whether to tell him. In the end I decided that it would be better if he was forewarned, however I immediately regretted my decision. Instead of being discreet and respectful, he went round the office telling everyone and ridiculing her for being transgender. I felt awful. I would like to think that things have improved a lot since then. After that, I didn't concern myself with transgender issues, and I didn't give it much thought until recently.

Tell me a bit more about your daughter and about the time she told you.

My daughter, an only child was 16 and we had no idea that she was transgender. Looking back, you think of possible clues. She had become interested in LGBT rights, and I find that when people are, they tend to have a personal investment in it. She's always been quite empathetic and shied away from aggressive sports, for example she hated having to play rugby as she's a gentle person.

Nonetheless, it was a surprise when she came out to us. She came out to the school community by wearing a skirt to school prom, and then a few days later she told me. You wonder at first whether it was just a phase but when you have children you support them. I wanted to give her a chance to settle with it but with her age, beard growth wasn't far away so a decision had to be made quite quickly. I think I would have found it more difficult had she been younger, 12 or 13 maybe.

I was also concerned about how she would be accepted by others, but my experience of young people has been that they are generally more accepting of trans, gender questioning and nonbinary people. Also, it's more widespread than you might think. An old schoolfriend of mine has a has a gender questioning daughter and an ex schoolfriend of my daughter came out as a trans woman not long after we left the UK. It shows that there are a lot of gender questioning people out there. My experience is that and many young people just take it in their stride.

Have you noticed a difference in her?

She's less stressed now, like a weight has been lifted. She was having to hide it. Her dress is not all that different, and her behaviour isn't either.

What have you found difficult?

At first it felt like I had lost somebody I know, almost like a bereavement. She's an only child and it felt like I had lost my son. You take life for granted in many ways. You shouldn't really but you have plans in your head for your children. Suddenly, you don't know what's happening next. You do get used to it though. She is the same person she was the day before when she hadn't told anyone. That sense of loss is much less now. I do think about the relationship and how different it would have been had she been my daughter from birth.

I sometimes have a bit of a panic because I'm afraid of what comes next and the difficulties she will face. The whole process frightens me and how she will be accepted as she makes her way through life. My daughter has had to educate me on language, how to address people and myself as a cisgender person.

Has what's happening in the UK affected you?

Yes. It's like they are fuelling a 'them and us' situation in the press. For most people, transgender rights don't affect them in their day to day lives. Suddenly, its perceived as a threat and it isn't. It's the misinformation that's a big problem. When I told my dad about my daughter being transgender, he mentioned to me about so many trans people changing their mind, yet it's less than 1% and most of those don't regret transitioning. You wonder where they get those ideas from. There are so many checks, so you must be sure. The message they are sending out, (the media and government) is that the process is too lenient, 'we' don't want 'these people', pretend 'they' don't exist so don't encourage 'them'.



Audience arrives for Cavetown

How have friends and family been?

They've been OK. However, some health professionals outside the specialism of gender affirmation have intimated that I should be more obstructive and not facilitating it so much. I don't feel comfortable with that. Many family members have been more accepting than I expected though, particularly some of the older members. My sister has 4 daughters and I asked her if there were any transgender students in their (single sex) school. She replied, "Oh yes, there's lots of them, theys". People say it's "no problem" but it might be if it was your child. It is if you worry about the discrimination she may face. It's a lot of mental adjustment so, it is a problem. If it happened to them, they might think otherwise.

Is there anything that could have been in place now that could have helped you more?

The internet is a is a good resource and 'Transgender UK' on Facebook has been particularly helpful. We also had a positive experience when I took my daughter to see a musician who happens to be transgender (Cavetown). The venue was full of transgender people. Parents with trans daughters and sons and it felt quite normal being around all these people sharing experiences.



Cavetown - Taken by Nicky/her daughter.

At what point did you realise that there was no going back?

It was when my daughter explained to me that no one would come out, go through the stress of having to change most things in your life, such as name at school and socially transitioning unless they were really sure. That was when it hit me.

And the school were very supportive?

The school were very good. They have protocols in place. Most sports are done together, male and female, non-binary, trans. They have also provided gender neutral toilets. Her school friends are mixed gender and very accepting.

Spain is notoriously bureaucratic. What difficulties have you encountered regarding her legal status?

Not being Spanish, a Spanish citizen or even just being from a country outside the EU has caused difficulties. Official documents haven't changed at the moment. You must reside in the UK to change your name by deed poll. There are complications with residency and the passport office didn't know what to do either. I contacted the embassy in Alicante as well. Spain has a fast-track system but only for Spanish nationals. Her name has changed on the school register. Some teachers took a while to get used to it, but we got there in the end.

Her bank details for example can't be changed into her new name until the passport is changed. She will be applying for university and not necessarily staying in Spain so, it's quite stressful working out when and what you can use your new name on.

How is her medical transition going?

Because it was an imperative to start puberty blockers as soon as possible, we decided to go

privately, through Gender GP*. Hormones are next and as she is 17, she doesn't need my permission so it's her decision. Although we're not presently entitled to access the Spanish state healthcare system, there is government support in the form of adolescent peer groups, access to a specialist psychologist and social worker, which have been great. What's important is that my daughter is happy and really positive about the future.



The Cavetown gig

Has her clothing / fashion sense changed? Not really. Her look hasn't changed much. She

doesn't wear makeup or jewellery, but it must be women's clothes she buys. She rarely wears skirts, its normally cargo trousers, but she is comfortable about how she looks. I don't know if that will change. When she takes hormones, that may change, but it may not. She has occasionally worn a skirt in restaurants and that was fine. Most people don't have a problem with it as she doesn't stand out. She's quite petite too which helps.

We talked about how attitudes have changed over the years.

Attitudes towards women in general have changed so much, particularly between people our age and young people now. They were full of girlie calendars (workplaces), there was no equal pay for women legislation. We got no sex education until 11 years old and learnt from friends*. People look back at the 70s (with rose tinted glasses) and no, the 70s weren't all great. It's hard to compare attitudes in the UK as we haven't lived there for 4 years. 'Normal' seems to be used a lot but what is normal? It's a concern that children will only get their education (sexuality and gender) from their homophobic parents or where they are in strict religious families. Misinformation isn't challenged vet gender and sexuality are one of the first things children understand.

**Since this interview, the UK government have decided there will be no sex education until 9 years old, in what seems a backward step. One teacher who called in to a TV show said all her children in year 5 (9/10-year-olds) know about gender/transgender issues but she was concerned they got accurate information. Some pupils had trans siblings. The presenter commented that some of the 74 genders where 'silly' but didn't say which ones.



Cavetown (taken from Wikipedia)

We looked to the future...

She doesn't seem too fazed by her identity. She's 17 so she shouldn't have this extra worry. It's a massive change. The Cass review that came out recently made her furious. Transgender people were presented as a 'plaque', it wasn't challenged (on the main media platforms) and Cass herself wasn't challenged because she's a paediatrician and worked on it for 4 years. People picked up on the soundbites (particularly those three-word soundbites) which made it hard to debunk. No one seems to want to challenge lies anymore. The (mainstream) media are just concentrating on 74 genders and the so called "danger in toilets (which doesn't exist) and calling it an 'ideology. If (proper) information isn't given to children, then they will never know anything.

We were shown pictures of her. She looked fabulous and so feminine. Apparently, she doesn't like some of the photos but that's common anyway. It's so easy to be flippant saying it's all 'no problem' but after settling into a new country and now this.

Seventeen-year-olds are fearless though and she's less stressed about it all. Like most teenagers she uses social media extensively. I am actually very proud of her, as she

does not hide her gender identity online and will confront people who have a problem with it (in fact she wins quite a few over!) She is able to compartmentalise negative comments and is happy if she can get someone to reflect and think differently.

We would like to say thank you to both parents and their daughter for sharing this with us and our readers. We hope that this will help and encourage anyone out there who has issues with gender identity, the process, especially young people who are our future.

Carla & Penny

*Gender GP have been restructuring and patients are reporting extreme difficulties obtaining prescriptions and contacting the company at present.

Don't know about Cavetown? -It's time you found out...

Cavetown, is a transgender singer-songwriter, formerly known as Robin Skinner, who captivates audiences with heartfelt indie-pop melodies and introspective lyrics. Through his music, he openly shares his journey of self-discovery and embraces his identity with courage and authenticity.



Cavetown's gentle voice and candid storytelling resonate deeply, offering comfort and connection to fans worldwide. As a transgender artist, he advocates for inclusivity and representation in the music industry, inspiring others to embrace their true selves unapologetically.

A Change of Sex The Incredible story of Julia Grant



It's 1986 and a group of off duty nurses are enjoying their Friday night pub crawl in Liverpool City Centre. "Let's go to one of those new fun pubs" was the shout and Le Jardin was the venue.

In the mid 1980's, Liverpool, like many other cities in the UK saw the opening of what we called 'fun pubs.' A way of livening the more drab and dreary establishments into something spectacular. When you entered one of those, you were greeted with loud music (no surprise there) but also Extravagant DJ's who would stand high above the audience, often flanked by dancers encouraging patrons to do the same. The result was everyone including the bar staff standing on tables, dancing, and singing and making quite an atmosphere.

That night, as I walked in, I saw DJ Julia Grant standing at her turntable, encouraging the dancing. It was the first time I saw here live, she cut quite a figure... Sometimes a person appears in your life and makes a difference. Sometimes you don't quite know how, but they leave a mark. Sometimes it's not until many years older that you realise, and all the pieces begin to fit together. Julia Grant was one of those people.

A Change of Sex

In 1979 I saw a TV programme 'A Change of Sex' about a male to female transgender woman undergoing the minefield that was her transition from male to female (MtF). It was Julia Grant and the first time I had ever encountered a transgender woman (that I knew of). The series of documentaries intrigued me, and I remember being very interested, although at the time, I didn't know why.

It's sometimes easy to forget just how far we have come so I look back on this TV programme and see the progress made. Of course, it comes with issues. For example, there were so few of us out in the 1970's. The backdrop was almost unchallenged racism, homophobia, and transphobia. Fast forward to now and although there are relatively few of us, we are so much more visible and therefore prone to attack more than ever. That said, this snapshot of gender transition and its hurdles is revealing of the time. Thankfully, mainly consigned to the past.

The treatment of Julia was horrific and illustrated the backdrop on the time, laced with transphobia and homophobia. I watched the series again only a few years ago, this time, fully identifying with her journey. Born in September 1954, Julia had a difficult upbringing, with her mother an alcoholic who had tried to take her life on many occasions and a father who tried to rape her as a child. As one of 8 children, she often cared for her younger siblings and spent some time in a children's home. She also prostituted herself to men as a teenager, perceived as a cry out for the affection she didn't get from her parents. She used the money for sweets.

After a failed marriage and working as a drag queen, which didn't feel right, she realised she wasn't gay, she was transgender and wanted to live as a woman.



Approached by the BBC they set about making a series of documentaries charting her transition from last drag performance to surgery and beyond. She began living as a woman as a pre-condition to her treatment at Charing Cross Hospital. Interestingly, she asked the series director for a list of names, one of which she chose as her name.

A week before the programme went out, in typical style, the Sunday tabloids ran some extremely hostile stories about Julia and the series. Despite this she went ahead, determined that she would become "the woman I want to be".



It was Julia's treatment by the NHS psychologist that was particularly harrowing. Not only was his treatment and attitude towards women considered stereotypical, even by 197'0's standards, but his disdain of Julia also shone through. He dismissed her attitude as pushy, not believing she was feminine enough and was dismissive of her goals. That said, she pursued those goals despite many setbacks. During this time, she was living with her partner, Amir, an Iraqi refugee who accepted her as a woman.

She managed to obtain breast implants privately, which incensed her psychologist and realising she would never be granted genital surgery, she also went private. Unfortunately, following the surgery, she had complications and was taken into hospital unconscious where she was treated by doctors, who were unaware of her history, for a miscarriage. Following that, she was unable to have sex and eventually split from her partner.

Follow up programmes were made up to the late 1990's. It was during this time that she became a DJ. She ran a show bar and a number of cafes and bars in Manchester's 'Canal Street Gay Village', establishing local LGBTQ events. She later got married and although she was offered corrective surgery, she decided against it. She then moved to France where she established a ceramics business and was known by the locals as "La Madame Anglaise".



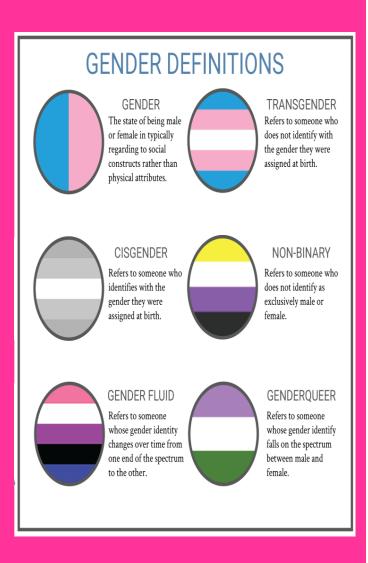
Later moving to Benidorm, she ran a hotel and set up the first Benidorm Gay Pride. Some of her views were viewed somewhat controversial as she suggested that "changing sex" would not solve all of a trans person's problems. She also had controversial views about children transitioning using hormones and surgery. She also counselled young people in the USA, who were thinking of going through the process.

Julia was diagnosed with bowel cancer and returned to the UK in 2015. She committed herself to helping other trans people and investigated improving trans care services taking in discussions with the NHS Nye Bevan Academy, which trains health service leaders.

Although she recovered from bowel cancer, she encountered many health problems and passed away on 2nd January 2019 after a short illness.

A quite incredible and groundbreaking life and incredible woman.

All five programmes can still be accessed on BBC iPLAYER and I would highly recommend viewing.





The History of pride

A lot of people will know that the origin of Pride marches, as we know them, are a result of the Stonewall riots in New York. On the 28th of June 1970, the one year anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, the first pride marches were held in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. Thousands of LGBT+ people gathered to commemorate Stonewall.



However, for decades prior to the events at Stonewall, LGBT+ activists had been holding "Reminder Day pickets" annually on the 4th of July

at Independance Hall in Philadelphia, Pensylvania.

Following the Stonewall Uprising the organisers of the annual Reminder Day Picket suggested that the Reminder Day Picket should be moved to June and become an annual demonstration to commemorate Stonewall.

The organisations behind the Reminder Day Picket passed the following resolution:

"We propose that demonstration be held annually on the last Saturday in June in New York City to commemorate the 1969 sponteous demonstrations on Christopher Street and this demonstration be called CHRISTOPHER STREET LIBERATION DAY." The Stonewall Inn is located on Christopher Street.

The first Christopher Street Liberation Day was a resounding success with thousands of people flocking to the demonstration, surpassing the expectations of the organisers. Plans were soon

underway in Los Angeles and Chicago to establish their own events. Before long other cities, states and countries would establish their own Pride traditions.



One of the organisers Foster Gunnison Jr. reflected on the positive outcome of the New York Liberation Day 1970:

"...and each of these 5,000 homosexuals had a new feeling of pride and self-confidence, for that was one of the main purposes of the event to commemorate, to demonstrate, but also raise the consciences of participating homosexuals to develop courage and feelings of dignity and self-worth" May 1971

The Trevor Project and the link to Harry Potter



Do you know about the Trevor Project? Do you know Daniel Radcliffe?

Put the two together and you have a combination of support for the LGBTQ+ community.

The Trevor Project and Daniel Radcliffe share a special bond built on compassion and advocacy. The Trevor Project is a nonprofit organisation dedicated to providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ+ youth. Daniel Radcliffe, known for his role as Harry Potter, has been a vocal supporter of LGBTQ+ rights and mental health awareness.

In 2009, Radcliffe became involved with The Trevor Project, serving as an ally and spokesperson for their cause. He's used his platform and influence to raise awareness about the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth and the importance of supporting mental health initiatives. Radcliffe's involvement has helped shine a spotlight on The Trevor Project's vital work, encouraging others to support and get involved in their mission.

Together, The Trevor Project and Daniel Radcliffe exemplify the power of collaboration and compassion in creating a safer and more inclusive world for LGBTQ+ youth. Through their partnership, they continue to inspire positive change and offer hope to those in need.

Daniel Radcliffe, best known for his role as Harry Potter, has openly challenged J.K. Rowling's views on transgender issues. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter series, has expressed controversial opinions about transgender people, which Radcliffe and many others disagree with.

Radcliffe, along with other cast members and fans, has emphasized the importance of inclusivity and acceptance, especially within the Harry Potter community. He has spoken out in support of transgender rights and has made it clear that everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their gender identity.

By speaking up against transphobia, Radcliffe shows that it's essential to stand up for what's right and to support marginalised communities. His actions remind us that we all have a responsibility to create a more inclusive and welcoming world for everyone.



The Trevor Project and the link to Harry Potter continued...

A series of YouTube videos has been produced, Sharing Space, moderated by Daniel Radcliffe. Sharing Space, features conversations with LGBTQ young people, provides a much-needed platform for young trans and nonbinary voices to share about their personal journeys and explore what genuine allyship looks like among curious, open-minded adults and allies.

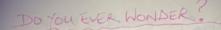


The first episode of "Sharing Space" features six trans and nonbinary young people who sit down with Radcliffe to have a candid, vulnerable, and illuminating conversation about their unique lived experiences.

https://youtu.be/rBFvppAL48U?si=1IPHcnm kIS4_FJ_k



Do You Ever Wonder?



DO YOU EVER WONDER WHERE THE TRANS PEOPLE ARE? I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU THAT WE ARE EVERY WHERE

WE ARE YOUR BROTHERS YOUR SISTERSAND YOUR AWARS AND UNCLES WE ARE SITTING NEXT TO YOU ON THAT TRAIN

WE ARE YOUR FATHER YOUR MOTHER YOUR BOSS YOUR FRIEND

WE SHINE FROM THE INSIDE YOU CAN'T ALWAYS SEE SOMETIMES WE SHOW OUT AND WE ARE FREE

Grb ,

Follow Carla on Social Media

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Listen to my podcast on https://spotify.link/FhWLMteyFJb

TikTok @carlamoss80

Handy Hints and Tips for T-Girls

A fun guide to making life just a little bit more bearable.

- Wiggy Wisdom: Keep your wig in place during gusty days by employing a trusty chin strap – fashion meets function! There are plenty of cheap wigs out there so you can try new styles before splashing out on more expensive hair. Try reshaping an old wig into a new style, just to see...
- 2. **Shoe Sorcery:** Master the art of walking in heels by practicing in your own home. Just remember to mind the cat, the rug, and any Lego pieces lurking around! Video yourself and become a TikTok sensation.
- Mirror Mania: Hang up a full-length mirror and label it "The Fabuliser" – because every reflection deserves a glamorous makeover! Maybe take pics from different angles using the mirror as a reverse image.
- 4. **Makeup Mishaps**: Turn makeup mishaps into avant-garde masterpieces. Smudged eyeliner? It's called "grunge chic" now! It's fun to experiment!
- Bag Bonanza: Opt for a Mary Poppins-style handbag – you never know when you'll need an emergency tiara or a secret stash of chocolate. Experiment with the most outrageous and girly styles.
- Fashion Follies: Embrace fashion faux pas with pride! Mismatched socks? It's called "eccentric elegance" in haute couture circles. You may be noticed when out and about, so why not make it an event.

- Selfie Shenanigans: Experiment with creative angles for selfies. Just remember, the "duck face" is so last season – try the "flamingo pout" instead! Most of us have lived way too long in the closet so go for it big time.
- 8. **Spa Spectacle:** Transform your bathroom into a DIY spa with scented candles, soothing music, and a rubber ducky for moral support. It's like a day at the spa, but with more bubbles and fewer strangers! Or, if you feel up to it, invite a stranger.
- Lipstick Logic: Invest in a lipstick that lasts longer than your last Netflix binge session. Bonus points if it survives a midnight snack attack! One of life's pleasures is experimenting with different styles.
- Slay All Day: Own your uniqueness and embrace your inner diva – because life's too short for boring hairdos and bland fashion choices!



Embrace the selfie.

Authenticity on the job dramatically benefits trans workers, study shows

A recent study of transgender and nonbinary adults found they were dramatically happier about their job and life in general when they felt comfortable asserting their true identities in the workplace.

Full story KU News

Transgender athletes may have to compete with their biological sex under Tories' proposed shake-up of Equality Act, says Kemi Badenoch

As part of their latest election offer, the Tories last night pledged to change the Equality Act to define the protected characteristic of sex as "biological sex".

In the past, critics have accused the Conservatives of seeking to stoke divisions and demonise transgender people in the search for votes - with concerns raised about what this could mean for sport and access to female-only spaces.

Full story Sky News

After decades of fear, some transgender elders celebrate freedom and progress

Imperato recalls the 1970s, '80s, and '90s through memories of the ridicule and violence she and others faced for being a part of the LGBTQ+ community – recollections of broken fingers from fights and echoes of slurs being yelled on the street.

"Just because you get beaten – and I've been beaten many times – that doesn't mean you've been defeated," Imperato said.

Full story ABC News

Marlon Wayans reveals his reaction to finding out his child is transgender

Marlon Wayans has candidly expressed how finding out his son Kai is transgender changed him as a father and an individual.

The 51-year-old actor has been willingly vulnerable onstage, performing comedy sets for his new standup series, *Good Grief*, on Amazon Prime. While the ability to be open with an audience is no simple feat, the difficult challenge has been navigating parenthood as a father with two sons – Kai, 24, and Shawn, 22 – and an 18-month-old daughter, Axl.

Full story The Independant

Trans actor Karla Sofía Gascón sues French far-right politician after 'sexist insult'

The first transgender woman to be awarded the best actress prize at the <u>Cannes film festival</u> filed a legal complaint on Wednesday over a "sexist insult" from a far-right politician after her win. Karla Sofía Gascón and co-stars jointly received the accolade on Saturday for their performances in French auteur Jacques Audiard's Mexico-set narco musical Emilia Perez.

In the film, the 52-year-old Spanish actor – who lived as a man until she was 46 – plays a Mexican drug trafficker both before and after gender reassignment surgery.

Full story The Guardian

Eurovision winner Nemo urges Switzerland to recognise third gender

"In Switzerland there's no entry for third gender. And I think that's absolutely unacceptable," the artist, known as Nemo, told reporters after being <u>crowned the winner</u> of the 68th Eurovision song contest. "We need to change that."

Full story The Guardian