

Announcer and “Bridge” Person

“ Hi, I’m Dwayne. I live in Ward 8. Some of you may know me from my neighborhood outreach with Community Education Group.

DC is an amazing city with all types of people and groups. Have you heard of “LGBT?”

Well it stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender.

It is a lot to get and a lot to understand, especially transgender.

A lot of people think transgender is just another sort of gay man or just a weak dude

“Transgender” means people who feel they are one sex, but their body is another.

More than 10,000 transgender people live in and around DC.

Accepting and acknowledging people who are different is tough.

I hope you’ll listen to what the facts are and what the truth is about living transgender in DC.

We’ve talked with lots of young guys in SouthEast DC.

Most said they didn’t have any beef towards someone who was transgender.

And they wouldn’t have any beef with someone who was friendly with a transgender person.

Most dudes I know not tripping off gay dudes or transgenders, as long as they respect them.

For them, it was about respect. Leave me be, and let transgender people be.

That’s how we get along in DC.

We want to introduce Terra and Dee-Dee. They’re going to talk about being transgender here in DC.

We want to have a conversation about the situation afterwards so, take a moment and listen to them.

You don’t have to agree with them.

You don’t have to like them.

But we hope you’ll at least give them a chance to talk.

Take it all in, and then tell people in the discussion afterwards what you really think.

Again, I’m Dwayne, and I’m glad you’re here to today. Thanks. ”



Dwayne

Transgender Spokeswomen

This script was developed specifically to address the key message points. It also echoes the current city-wide RESPECT campaign mounted by the DC Office of Human Rights.

“ Thank you Dwayne.

My name is Dee-Dee, and I'm Terra. We are Black transgender women.

What is a man? What is a woman?

Being transgender means we were born male, but inside we always felt like a women. That's just how we felt and still do.

That's what it means to be transgender. Simply not to feel that you fit in the gender you were labeled at birth.

You may not understand us.

You may not like us.

And you may not think of us as woman.

But what were here to talk about today is respect.

You've got your side of the street And we have got ours.



Dee-Dee and Terra

We're all people and we're all human.

When you see a person you suspect is transgender in the streets, trust that it is not a game.

Our being transgender is about US not YOU.

It doesn't mean We're trying to test you or your manhood.

It doesn't mean we're interested in you or coming onto you because we say 'hello.'

It doesn't mean we're checking out your manhood.

We're not... TRUST WE'RE NOT.

Basically we do us just like you do you. This is who and what we are.

We are proud of ourselves just like you are proud of you.

Coming from where we come from, having respect for yourself, and giving respect for others isn't easy, We know... TRUST WE KNOW.

We don't need you to get us, or understand us. But it would be nice if you tried.

We don't need you to like us or date us.

BUT We Do need you to get that DC is our home, too.

We aren't hiding.

We aren't backing up.

And we aren't going anywhere.

I'm here to tell you I want your respect as a person. The same respect I give you.

I'm here to tell you that I deserve your respect the same respect I offer you.

I'm Dee Dee I'm a Black transgender woman and I'm a proud part of DC.

I'm Terra I'm a Black transgender woman and I'm a proud part of DC

Thank you. ”

