



The Lies They Tell @sarahstuartxx

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So. This was yet another training session, run aimed at corporate employees of blue chip real estate companies, but obviously anyone could sign up since Eventbrite was used.

Thread.



The two people running the session were Bobbi Pickard (hereafter BP) who works for British Petroleum and a woman (JL) who has very recently started testosterone, who works for an international real estate firm, who I won't name since she didn't appear on the promotional material.

Bobbi Pickard, founder of Trans in the City shares everything you need to bring yourself up to speed with transgender.

About this Event

Run by Bobbi Pickard the award-winning founder of Trans in the City and co-chair of BP Pride's Transgender Group, this course is everything you need to bring yourself up to speed with transgender; how it affects individuals, what causes it and how society deals with the huge variety of different transgender people. Most importantly what you can do to help and be an effective ally.

Bobbi, a trans woman who started her transition in 2017, brings personal stories and examples in to the session providing first-hand insight and dry humour to explain what a sometimes difficult and dark journey being transgender can be but also what a hugely fulfilling and positive experiences also occur.

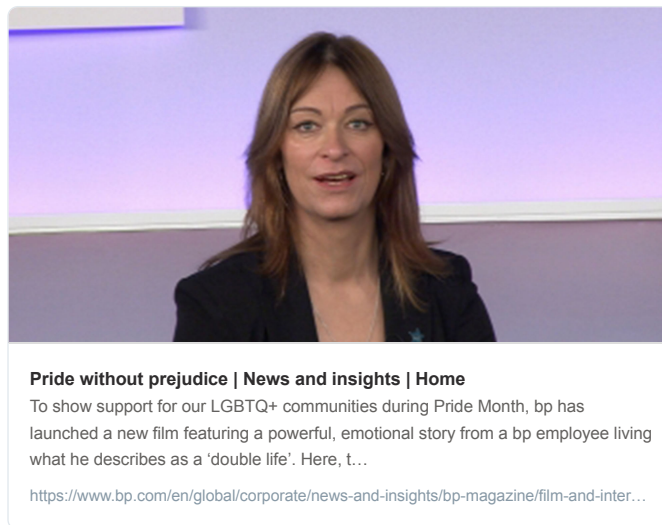
The course is run in a completely open, honest and frank way and is designed for people of all knowledge levels on the subject – all questions, whether thought silly, offensive, politically incorrect or, well, anything at all are positively encouraged – it's run to provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision on how you feel about transgender. Most of all it's interesting, funny, fairly irreverent and importantly: a completely safe learning environment.

British Petroleum is one of the biggest energy companies in the world with one of the biggest turnovers too.

Trans in the City appears to be an offshoot of their LGBT network group and apparently co-ordinates with over 60 other companies.



British Petroleum have recently made this video (it mentions lockdown) in support of the transgender community. It has high production values and a professional actor plays the role of the trans employee 'Paul'.



BP works as a Senior Project Manager with British Petroleum and won an award from them for being a Future Leader (or summink).



BP's Bobbi Pickard named top LGBT+ Future Leader role model

Pickard talks to Yahoo Finance about the power of advocacy and how her manager saved her life.

<https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/bp-bobbi-pickard-named-top-lgbt-future-leader-role...>

Trans in the City has some interesting sponsors, including the Metropolitan Police and a private health clinic (great for those corporate clients with private health insurance from their employers).



Sponsors and Allies

A huge thanks to all of the organisations that contribute to the ongoing success of Trans in the City.

<https://www.transinthecity.co.uk/sponsors-and-allies.html>

BP is also a Trustee at Mermaids and I suspect some of the viewers of the webinar were hardcore Mermaid fans given some of the questions and comments at the end. <https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/staff-and-trustees/>

Firstly BP explained that transvestism was nothing to do with transgenderism, except that it *was* under the same umbrella. He explained that men dress up for 'stress release'.

He wanted to start by saying he *didn't* want to 'constrain' the language we might use. This was about the 100th time he'd run the course and he promised to give out a box of chocolates to anyone who asked a really nasty unPC question, hence fixing the box of chocolates

as something wholly distasteful.

So, what makes you?

BP presented a slide of different coloured sweeties in rows. It also had British Petroleum's official branding on it. Down the left side were the categories: biological sex, gender, sexuality and gender expression.

You can grab a sweetie from any row (also a nice link to the rancid chocolates on offer?).

Unlike most trainers in this field, BP really got down to the nitty gritty, using scientific terms like chromosomes, genes and hormones. Possessing a small penis or a large clitoris

apparently puts you on the spectrum between male and female.

BP doesn't like to use the term 'cis', he prefers to describe 99.9% of the world's population as 'not transgender' instead. Most 'not transgender' people don't notice that they actually have a gender expression,

because it all fits together nicely. However, lots of people say things like 'I'm not a girly girl' or 'I'm a sensitive bloke' indicating their gender expression is at odds with their gender.

Liking and having lots of clothes indicates femaleness, especially nice shoes.

The second component of gender expression was societal expectation. Confused? You will be.

JL said she was biologically female, with a masculine gender, but now that she had transitioned she was straight (so yet another middle aged lesbian) and that her gender expression was

male. Although we never saw JL, her voice was unmistakably female.

What makes you? part 2.

BP dugged down into chromosomes. We all have two. No, five. Up to 1 in 200 of us have more than two.

Luckily schools don't do chromosome tests in science class anymore, imagine

finding out you had more than two chromosomes during the middle of class? BP was glad that practice was over.

But it isn't really chromosomes which determine sex anyway, even though we all have two or five.



Genes don't determine your height, hormones do.

Oestrogen/testosterone exposure in utero determines how female/male you will eventually become.

BP then put up a slide entitled 'Hormonal Variations'. Schwarznegger was typical of someone who had a lot of testosterone exposure in the womb, Audrey Hepburn oestrogen.

Everything is determined at a very early stage of life.



The next slide was photos of DiCaprio, Bieber and Depp when they were young and cherubic, supposedly demonstrating oestrogen-built faces.

Steph McGovern and Rebecca Adlington were used as examples of women with masculine faces, caused by testosterone.

Brain development

There were 5 areas of the brain involved in gender.

No, 29.

The reason why transgender people have such strong feelings is because they have 29 mismatched areas in their brain, and it's nothing to do with the elephant doses of cross-sex hormones they are on.

Only 8% of people have a brain which entirely matches up with the gendered areas of their brain.

Alternatively BP assured us that there was no such thing as a sexed-brain. It's all about how we are nurtured and how much confidence you have.



5% of the world's population is transgender (4% NB and 1% TG). It's a fact! They have always existed and there are ancient Sumarian writings about NB people.

Shakespeare also talked about NBs all the time too.

So there!

People who are gender fluid can change their gender within moment to moment, which was very stressful for them, or over a course of years, or they can be girl-mode one day and boy-mode the other.

Agender people also have a tough time because they have no concept of gender and therefore fitting into a gendered society is very challenging.

Risk of suicide/depression slide.

BP explained to us that prior to transition he used to look in the mirror and not recognise himself, except his eyes.



Dressing as a woman makes him feel more whole, although not all the dysphoria goes away as there are still parts of his body that make him feel dysphoric.

BP explained that when gender dysphoria is managed well then the social pressure vastly increases, meaning that

depression and suicide risk is never far away.

BP transitioned in 2017 in his late 40s. BP recounted that he had had bottles thrown at him, a drink poured over him, people had said horrible things. Online abuse was horrific, including people telling him to kill himself.

Filtering all this out reduces your brain power by 30%.

BP talked for so long about his mental distress that the screen of my laptop went into resting mode.

48% attempt suicide, and that's just the ones who do some sort of transition. The real figure is more like 92%.

In his personal circle he doesn't know anyone who hasn't tried and what other group do anyone of us know who are this unhappy? BP is sick to death of people dying just for being TG. Society is the problem because it's forcing them to be something that they're not.

Of course the effect on families is huge. Through his work with Mermaids he hears a lot of people say that kids can't know, which is complete rubbish, he knew when he was three!

BP addressed the issue of puberty blockers. They aren't dangerous at all, and are only given at

Tanner stage 2, when breast budding begins.

The suicide rate of kids who aren't supported is 50%, but when they are that reduces down dramatically to 4%. Going through puberty is catastrophic for these kids and it was far better that we delay their puberty.

Puberty blockers have been in use since 1940s and are used to treat puberty in children as young as 2 years old. There are no problems with brain development.

Research also showed that only 4% of kids decided not to transition after taking puberty blockers.

Oh and guess what? Transitioning doesn't necessarily involve surgery, it could be something as simple as expression change. However, BP is on a mix of testosterone blockers and oestrogen, the latter having given him a big bum and breasts.

BP described how painful electrolysis to remove his beard was. If you watch any video of surgery then there is no way you could possibly believe that someone would go through that without really wanting it.

It's much easier to come out as LGB as you can pick and choose who you want to know (oh yeah, what about gossip?) whereas if you come out as transgender everyone knows (i.e. no one passes) and which is why it's so difficult.

BP addressed the questions that we were all too scared to ask in case of receiving the metaphorical shit bomb of chocolate.

Yes, he'd known all his life, he saw himself as a trans woman and TAW but he always describes himself as transgender. Family have been brilliant, especially his kids.

He's on hormones, has had facial feminisation surgery and wants to have vaginoplasty it sounds like.

He's paying for his hormones privately, which costs £400 pm.

Yes, he tried to commit suicide when he was 14 when he started puberty, he had been hiding his

transness for 8 years at that point (so since he was 6 years old). Next time he tried to commit suicide was aged 48, just before he decided to transition. He was going to throw himself under a lorry, and almost did, but the driver swerved and the wing mirror just brushed

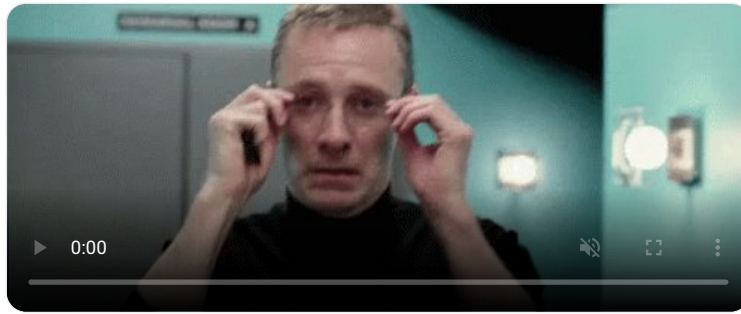
his hair (must be very tall). He realised he hadn't written out his song list for his funeral! What a disaster. No, he didn't want to die without having a song list which truly represented him. So he went back home and wrote one up.

Titanium by Sia was one.



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/DbMPoK9CZT0>

He shared a photo of what he looked like pre-transition. It reminded me of the publicity shot of Michael Fassbender for the Steve Jobs movie. Although PB is not as good looking as Fassbender, he had the same hard angular jaw and long face. Glasses.



What can people do to help?

Tell at least one person about the training today, challenge people if they say the wrong thing. Moreover get transition guidelines woven into policy where you work. And join his network group.

Q&A session

BP read out a question about toilets. TW was a hot topic for the Govt. at the moment and it was thought the Govt. was trying to stop trans people use the toilets they wanted to.

BP then said that he hadn't experienced any hurtful comments in public. The last abuse

he was still androgynous-looking and had just finished playing a gig. Too scared to use the ladies he went into the gents instead, and was shouted at.

BP said that TW have been using ladies loos for decades without any problems.

BP said that there were 64,000 women in the UK

who were 'sexual predators'.

JL also said she hadn't received any abuse but then most of the significant changes to her body have happened during lockdown (beard). JL doesn't feel comfortable in either bathroom.

Fancy that!? A woman who doesn't want to use a man's bathroom.

Another reported comment from the floor involved a child's attempted suicide and BP recommended Mermaids and Gendered Intelligence.

JL went into full cult mode, saying she'd never known such a loving and caring community and had felt nothing but love and support from day one.

She had never felt alone. BP said that it was a wonderful family.

JL's dad blocked her on all social media when he found out. Her mum was coming round. Her girlfriend was readjusting to now being 'straight'.

A reported question asked why terfs are so horrible.

BP said that he didn't care what terfs thought, he was most emphatic about that and repeated the sentiment several times. He didn't like was they were trying to get Govt. policy changed and JKR's recent post was a great

example of that.

Terfs engage in a huge amount of misdirection which relied upon the general public's vacuum of knowledge of the issues. He recommended Mermaid's response to the JKR statement if they wanted to know more.

Inclusion was a balloon that you can blow up.

Terfs make it all about how policy changes will affect womens' rights, which is just what homophobes did in the 80s, scaremongering about having gay men in male changing rooms.

BP gave us some more background to his family, how his mum felt about it (okay) and his father (dead).

A reported comment from the floor said a member of their family, aged 50, had started to transition.

BP started going back even further in time, musing on how his grandparents would have reacted.

It had overrun by 15 minutes.

In conclusion, it was agreed that education was key as then people aren't so scared about the issues when people find out men like BP only want to pee in peace in the ladies.

Ended with a plea to donate money to Mermaids, as they often do.

[@threadreaderapp](#) please unroll

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