

Nov. 19, 2020

To the UTM community:

Observed internationally on November 20, Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) honours people killed as a result of anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. First observed in memory of Rita Hester's murder in 1998, TDoR has since become an annual vigil for all trans lives lost each year. TDoR should remind us of the ongoing marginalization, hatred and violence inflicted on trans and nonbinary communities, suffered disproportionately by transgender women of colour.

Anti-transgender discrimination occurs in many insidious forms: negative attitudes and beliefs about trans people; irrational fears and misunderstandings; disbelief of a person's gender identity; derogatory language and name-calling; bullying and abuse. The stigma of transphobia also creates systemic barriers, often limiting trans and nonbinary people's access to essential services, resources and community supports.

We need collective action to make UTM a trans-inclusive space. We should use people's chosen names and pronouns; address discriminatory comments when they occur; adopt gender-inclusive language; read books by trans and nonbinary authors. We might also participate in Transgender Awareness Week, which aims to increase the visibility of trans people and celebrate the societal contributions they make.

At UTM, I welcome you to join Trans Day of Remembrance by changing your virtual background or using an online icon, available for download from the Sexual & Gender Diversity Office [website](#). I also encourage UTM's entire community to attend U of T's [virtual remembrance event](#), starting at 1 p.m. on November 20, in solidarity with trans and nonbinary people. At 4 p.m., U of T invites trans and nonbinary students, staff, faculty and librarians to come together in a special [virtual gathering space](#): registration is free.

To learn more about trans-inclusive communities, and to identify trans-specific resources and supports, please follow the links copied below:

- [Sexual & Gender Diversity Office](#)
- [Sexual Violence Prevention & Support Centre](#)
- [UTM Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office](#)
- [UTSC Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office](#)

Best wishes,

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