# HOW TO USE GENDER-INCLUSIVE SPANISH

## WHY IS USING GENDER-INCLUSIVE SPANISH IMPORTANT?

- Gender-inclusive language communicates support and respect to people, especially gender diverse and nonbinary individuals.
- Different people use different words and language. A good rule of thumb is to ask what language and terms someone uses for themselves.

*Did you know?*

There is a long history of Western cultures thinking of gender as binary (man/woman). However, despite European colonization, gender diversity has been historically respected and valued by indigenous populations and diverse cultures.

## HOW CAN YOU CHANGE THE SPANISH LANGUAGE TO BE INCLUSIVE AND SUPPORTIVE?

Although Spanish is a gendered language, you can **change words** that are masculine (often ending in -o) or feminine (often ending in -a) **to end in -e, -x, or -@** when referring to people.

| TRY | AVOID |
| --- | --- |
| Using **"Bienvenides," "Bienvenidxs,"** or **"Bienvenid@s"** *e.g. Bienvenidxs a la biblioteca.*<br><br>Using **"todes," "todxs,"** or **"tod@s"** *e.g. Saludos a todes que nos acompañaron hoy.* | Using "Bienvenidas" and "Bienvenidos" *e.g. Bienvenidas a la biblioteca.*<br><br>Using "todas" and "todos" *e.g. Saludos a todos y todas que nos acompañaron hoy.* |

You can **avoid gendered words all together** when discussing people.

| TRY | AVOID |
| --- | --- |
| Using **"personas"** and **"gente"** *e.g. Salieron las personas.* | Using "damas y caballeros," "hombres y mujeres," and "niñas y niños" *e.g. Salieron las damas y caballeros* |

You can use **gender-inclusive pronouns** (like "they/them/theirs" in English).

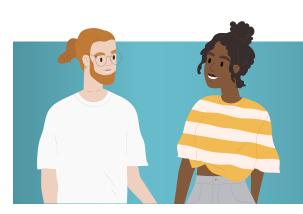| TRY | AVOID |
| --- | --- |
| Using **"elle/elles," "ellx/ellxs,"** or **"ell@/ell@s"** *e.g. Ellx fue a la tienda.* *e.g. Ell@s visitaron el hospital.* | Using "ella/ellas" and "él/ellos" *e.g. Ella fue a la tienda.* *e.g. Ellos visitaron el hospital.* |

You can use **gender-inclusive words to refer to people or describe people.**

| TRY | AVOID |
| --- | --- |
| Using **"les"** *e.g. Les maestres trabajan mucho.* | Using "las" and "los" *e.g. Las maestras trabajan mucho.* |

## TAKE HOME POINTS

- Spanish gendered words can be changed to end with -e, -x, and/or -@ (more commonly used in written form) to become gender-inclusive.
- Making these changes in your Spanish communication gets easier with practice.