# **[Coming](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJ0y4J_TJ6E) Out as Nonbinary, Genderqueer, or Gender Non-Conforming Video Transcript**

(Kei Williams) My name is Kei Williams, and I identify as a queer, transmasculine person.

(Nandia Kayyy) And I identify as a gender nonconforming femme.

(Dane Calabro) I identify as transgender nonbinary,or transgender nonconforming.

(Divesh Brahmbhatt) I identify as genderqueer— genderfluid, more specifically.

And my pronouns are they/them.

(Nandi Kayyy) I don't wanna identify as a man or a woman.

There's so many stigmas that come along

with either being a woman or being a man,

and societal expectations— and I just wanna be me.

(Dane Calabro) It's a way for me to express myself

knowing that there are no boundaries.

Knowing that I didn't identify as a woman,

and now knowing that I didn't also have to therefore identify as a man,

and just kind of float wherever I wanted

on the spectrum was a lot of freedom for me.

(Divesh Brahmbhatt) That feminine side of me—that I'm probably

not presenting at all hours of the day

or nearly as much as the male side of me—is just as important.

It comes and goes.

That's why I kind of identify really as genderfluid,

’cause I feel like sometimes I'm here,

sometimes I'm there, sometimes I'm somewhere in between.

(Dane Calabro) So for a lot of people, there's not necessarily

a huge “aha" moment of, “Oh, suddenly I realize that I'm nonconforming. This is it!”

It's more of, “I finally figured out that there was a third option.”

(Nandi Kayyy) My friend was telling me about this show “Steven Universe.”

She was like, “You have to watch this show.

There's all these characters who are just like us—you know,

gender nonconforming femmes.”

And when she said that word—she was so sure.

And I’d never heard it before, and it just clicked.

(Dane Calabro) My biggest source of information was the internet.

It was just googling anything that came to mind—

anything from androgyny,

anything from gender fluidity.

(Nandi Kayyy) I wrote a Facebook post, and I said,

“I’m still femme, I'm just not a lady.”

(Kei Williams) I kind of just went on Facebook and was like,

“Hey! Here's what's happening, and going forward, I won't respond to certain things.

And I will remind you when you misgender me.”

My mom is super active on Facebook.

And so she always responds in a really loving way.

(Nandi Kayyy) One of my really good friends from college,

she just really didn't understand it.

And instead of trying to understand, she just kind of—diminishing the fact

that I was changing my identity.

And I just explained to her, “Hey, when I tell you something about who I am,

it's not up for debate.”

(Divesh Brahmbhatt) You're probably never going to fundamentally

alter their mindset.

The happy medium, if you will,

is where you can live your life as a queer person,

and then they can live their life.

And you just have to say it,

and to keep saying it until they can

no longer refute it as your truth.

(Kei Williams)  Most people will nod their head,

but with an empty glare.

(Nandi Kayyy) I actually had a conversation at work

with a co-worker, who is from Amsterdam.

And they don't really have a word for “they” or “them” pronouns.

He said, “You know, I just don't really feel comfortable calling one person ‘they.’

‘They’ is a group of people.”

And I said, “You know, it's not really about how you feel comfortable.

It's about what I feel comfortable with.”

(Dane Calabro) We consistently use “they” and “them”

to identify singular individuals whose gender we just don't know.

Whether it's, “Oh, the doctor called today.”

“Oh yeah, what'd they say?”

Like immediately we know the doctor is one person,

but we don't know if it's a man, or a woman, or something in between, or not at all.

So we just employ the use of “they.”

(Dane Calabro) I think coming out with your sexuality

is great practice for coming out

with your gender identity.

(Nandi Kayyy) They can understand a lesbian.

Because it's like, “Oh, they have sex with women, and they're a woman.”

But when you say you're genderqueer, people don't understand that.

Because then they're thinking about sexuality. And it’s,

“Well, are you a lesbian then?”

And it's not really about that.

(Divesh Brahmbhatt) It forces your family to really understand

something that they do not see.

(Kei Williams)  I chose to change my name just because

my given name is very much feminine.

So it did not fit inside of what I had constructed as my identity.

I have a relationship with my given name.

It is representative of who I am.

It's a Muslim name, and it's one of the things

that my father gave me that we have

a really close bond about.

There are still family members who

don't call me by my name.

And so learning how to navigate that on a day to day or a life basis,

you kind of have to learn what to argue about,

what to give, and what to take from.

(Kei Williams) I think I would've given myself the advice that patience is really important.

And being able to be soft and gentle with yourself is really important.

Because you're the one that's gonna have to be with yourself.

(Nandi Kayyy) I think that you can be as clear as possible,

as kind as possible, but also don't be afraid to stand your ground

when they push back.

Because your family will always push back and say,

“This is who I remember you being.”

(Dane Calabro) I would just say that know that no matter what happens that you're valid.

(Divesh Brahmbhatt) The thing that really helped me mature a lot

was also voluntarily doing therapy,

which I had been resistant to for the longest time.

(Kei Williams) It's important to also just reach out, and not be afraid to talk to people.

Because in my experience,

the trans community has been extremely welcoming.

People have been through your experience, right?

And so, they're also willing to help you move through yours.

(Dane Calabro) People come to how they identify

in their own way at their own time.

And none of it is concrete.

So never feel like it's too late to look for sources, because they're out there.

We're out there. We’re waiting.

We wanna answer your questions.

We wanna hold our arms out and welcome you home.

(Nandi Kayyy) There's enough people being fake every day.

If you can take off your mask and still look at yourself in the mirror every day,

fuck what everyone else says.

That is a power.