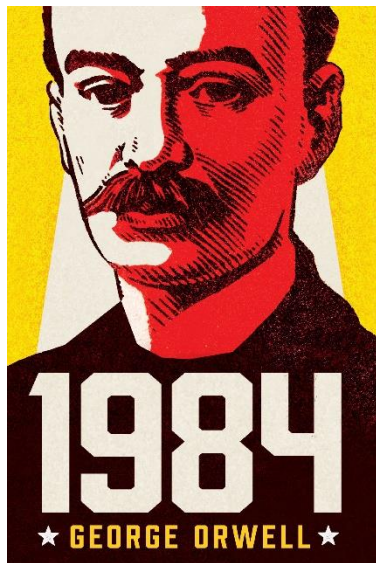


IDAF (English/T&U)

Entrance

First of all, we are aware that our chosen topic is utterly complex and one could write several books about it. Nevertheless, we want to discuss the topic at least at its surface. We would like to state at this point that we judge and write about the topic in a neutral way. We do not wish to express our personal opinion concerning genders in this world. This text does NOT have a final conclusion. We want to leave the discussion open, since it is still open in the "real world". We want the readers to make up their own minds and to think for themselves whether or not they support an environment the way we try to describe it. We consider this a "debate of thoughts".

"Gender roles should be dead. But gender itself is real & meaningful to many."



Early Times (1984)

In 1984 by George Orwell, society serves a purpose to the government and only the government. Personal issues and matters do not belong into this world. The government/"Thought Police" suppresses the citizens and tracks every move. People follow certain standards and stick to them their entire life, if they don't, they will be taken and brought to the ministry of love and face torture and agony. Hence, it is not possible to speak freely and to live the way you wish to.

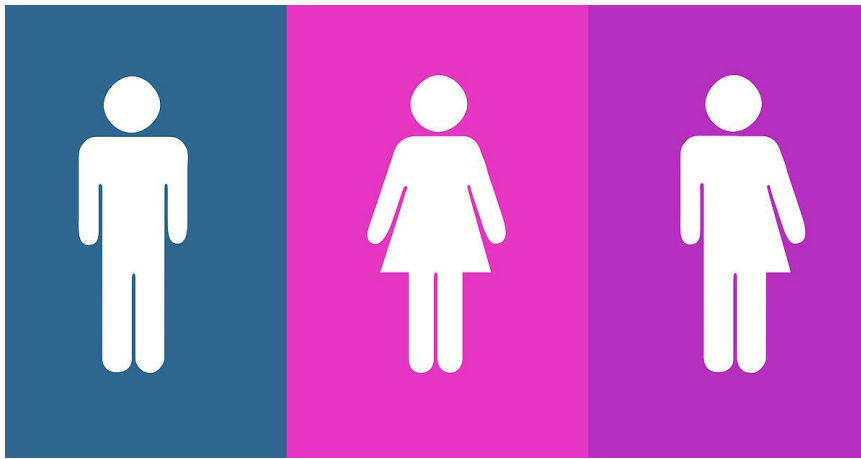
This must be utterly difficult for people, especially the ones who do not feel like as if they were in the right body. It is not specifically mentioned in the book but a transgender person would not be accepted from Oceania's society (interpretation).

A transgender person would simply have to live with the knowledge of not being in the right body their entire life. They would not be allowed to talk about it or to express their feelings because everyone could be working for the government. It is not just 1984 by George Orwell that states such a society. About 100 years ago there was barely talking of transgender people. They were considered ill or even possessed by an evil spirit. Banned from their families, misunderstood and mistreated by society. That used to be the life of a transgender person. And the term "transgender" did not even exist back then.

Today (2021)

Today, we live in a world of free(er) speech. At least in Switzerland. We are aware of the fact, that not everyone in this world is entitled to speak as they wish and to do as they please. Still, we want to discuss the issue like we know it here in Switzerland.

Nowadays a person is allowed to change their gender if they feel like they were asserted wrongly at birth. A person is allowed to express her gender or sexuality freely. There are still the ones who judge or who simply see it as wrong to be queer or transgender. Nevertheless, it has become at least a bit easier for people to come out and to live the way they want and to be in a body they want to be.



We still have a lot of work to do concerning the acceptance of transgender people. Lots of misunderstandings, wrong judgements and discrimination are still a serious issue.

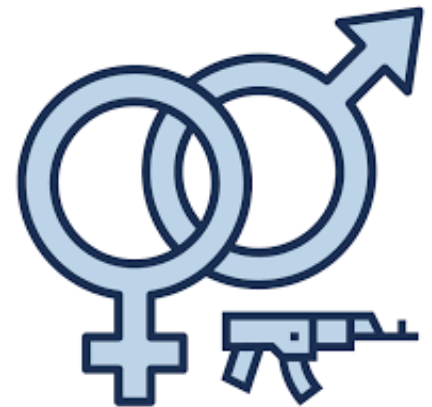
For example, heavy discussions regarding transgender women to participate in women sports. Voices claim, that transgender women are simply stronger since their body is indeed male... Is this fair? Or which bathroom to use when going to a restaurant? Is it a problem if I, as a transgender man, uses the women's bathroom and do I need to prove that I am transgender? How would you even do that? We often do not think about such matters until we are directly confronted with one and we often evaluate both sides. But maybe some people are biased towards that topic, just because of a lack of information and a being left out in the debate. Like any issue there are pros and cons to consider.

It takes time to change a societies mindset on such a sensitive topic that is for sure. But we have enhanced our sense of acceptance. Especially the younger generation does seem more considerate of other peoples feelings and choices. We know the world and our country are very far away from being perfect. Nevertheless, we have to admit, that there are changes happening, especially concerning the aspect of acceptance. We still need more information. It is one of the biggest causes to a conflict, that people simply do not know all the facts and are not briefed well enough and as a defence mechanism deny a lot of statements. It is crucial that we teach people more when it comes to social aspects. Some people simply do not have the knowledge to really make up their mind and simply rely on other peoples' opinions. But it is the same with any issue in this world. (racism, sexism, religion...)

Our lack of information or us being resistant to new opinions is the cause for many inconveniences occuring. BUT Is there a right way to accept people?

The Future (2084)

No one knows what the future holds and what will happen with our society. We can only speculate on the process of the gender issue. If the world is able to fully accept people who want to assert their gender themselves and even change it on a daily basis a lot will change. It would be a wonderful world to live regardless of your gender, since no one really cares anymore. Nevertheless, there might also be some disadvantages we need to consider. Because what if the term "gender" itself doesn't exist anymore? We need to set the pink sunglasses aside and also face the negative consequences; What if people just wake up in the morning and decide that from this day on, they want to be asserted as a hedgehog? How the hell does one talk to a hedgehog?! Society couldn't do anything against it because it is simply okay to just be whoever you want to be hence; we would have to accept the hedgehog. All of a sudden it is wrong to have an opinion on genders... all of a sudden, the ones who used to judge people are the ones who are being judged.



All of a sudden it actually is wrong again to have an opinion on certain issues when it does not concern your persona. Sounds a lot like Oceania again don't you think? What does a society need to live in harmony but still has every individual with their own mindset? Because in order to accept everything and anyone you actually have to stop thinking? And this is the moment where the thinking really starts. Because let's face it, this topic is one of 1000 that really needs to be discussed more often in order to build an honest opinion. We can use almost every issue we are discussing these days for example; wars, religion, sexual preferences, black lives matter, climate change, climate demonstrations whatsoever. Every person is entitled to build their own opinion on each of the topics mentioned. Because if we do not do the thinking ourselves, we simply rely on the thoughts of someone else and if that happens, we might as well end up like 1984 by Orwell...

