



# TRANS STYLE

# WORKSHOP

On Saturday 18th February 2023, The Diversity Trust partnered with G(end)er Swap to deliver the Somerset Equalities Officer Group funded Trans Style Workshop at the Friends' Meeting House in Taunton. Joni Clark, of The Diversity Trust, was joined by Santi of G(end)er Swap for an afternoon of community, fashion, and self-exploration.

G(end)er Swap are a queer-run Community Interest Company working to create safer spaces for trans and non-binary people to explore their gender presentation and share the gendered skills many trans people didn't receive growing up. They deliver trans empowerment sessions, make-up and style advice, clothes-swaps, and workshops across the UK.

The Style Workshop took place over two rooms, with a spread of light refreshments available in one room, and the second larger room providing space for the main event. Tables were laid out conference-style, with the clothes-swap to the side and make-up and personal care products, as well as supplies to customise clothing, available throughout.

Once everyone had arrived, the afternoon kicked off at 1pm, with a group discussion to establish what people wanted to get out of the space. As the attendees were mostly trans women or trans-feminine non-binary people, the session opened with a presentation by Santi from G(end)er Swap on feminine styling, with additional focus on make-up to achieve a more masculine or feminine appearance. Exploration of styling included working with the body's proportions, what clothing and accessories worked to achieve different appearances, and specific attention to trans-specific accessories. The presentation was interactive, with attendees able to ask questions throughout and share what had worked well for them from experience.

After the presentation, Santi facilitated an exercise using specific prompts to encourage people to develop a sense of personal style and bring it to life. Attendees were encouraged to think about what inspires the way they present themselves, what they are trying to convey and how they can incorporate that into their daily presentation. This took the approach of inviting people to share what has brought them gender euphoria, and to build the type of style they desired from there; much of trans experience and support is preoccupied with the experience of gender dysphoria, and so by inviting attendees to seek joy as opposed to flee discomfort, the space became one of joy and





exploration. To help open up this new sphere of experience, Santi posed the following questions:

## **WHAT DOES GENDER EUPHORIA LOOK LIKE TO YOU?**

- **WHAT SPECIFIC ITEMS?**
- **WHAT TEXTURES?**
- **WHAT SILHOUETTE(S)?**

Shopping can be an intimidating experience for trans people. Clothing shops are traditionally gendered in their layout and facilities, so having a space where attendees were able to explore non-judgmentally what makes them feel happy, and what sorts of clothes will help them achieve their goal, was well received. Santi was able to provide specific brand recommendations and explain different sorts of cuts and patterns, so attendees could take that knowledge forward into their own transition and style.

After a short break for some refreshments, the second half of the afternoon was given over to exploring clothing customisation and combination. The clothes-swap was open for perusal, and Santi guided people in adjusting and customising their picks. Donations to the clothes-swap were provided by attendees and organisers of the workshop, contributing to the sustainable fashion ethos upheld by G(end)er Swap. The event was drawn to a close by 5pm, and attendees were asked to provide feedback for their time at the workshop.





The Diversity Trust would like to thank the Somerset Equalities Officer Group for their support in this project, and G(end)er Swap for joining us on the day to deliver the workshop.

## Sign up to our newsletter

<https://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/subscribe>

## Get in Touch

A: 124 City Road, London, EC1V 2NX

E: [info@diversitytrust.org.uk](mailto:info@diversitytrust.org.uk)

M: 07720 294 991

The Diversity Trust is a Community Interest Company (CIC).

Registered in England & Wales.

Company Number: 08141031

VAT Number: 378 3131 85

