

# Show Up for Gender Equity in Public Spaces

Everyone has the right to move freely through public spaces, and as New Yorkers we are all responsible for building safe and equitable communities. Yet, all too often, women, and transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary (TGNCNB) persons and other members of the LGBTQ+ community face added challenges in public spaces, such as parks, streets, and public transportation.

**These challenges can take many forms, for example:**

- **Street harassment, commonly referred to as “catcalling” on the street, subway, or buses.**
- **The “Pink Tax”— everyday products that are often more expensive when marketed towards women.**
- **Planning and design of spaces often reinforce gender roles and/or the gender binary such as not having diaper changing tables in all restrooms, or simply the existence of single-sex facilities, such as bathrooms or locker rooms, that are often difficult to navigate for TGNCNB people.**

These daily experiences can negatively impact mental and physical health.

# Take Action!

Below are some actions YOU can take to make our public spaces safe for everyone:

- **Do not** comment on strangers' appearances, even if you think it is "just a compliment."
- **Do not** question whether someone is in the "right place" (in bathrooms, for example) based on your perception of their gender identity or expression.
- Use gender-neutral language when you do not know a person's gender identity or pronouns (instead of "sir" or "ma'am", use "folks", "everyone", or "esteemed guests").
- Be mindful of how your behavior and words may affect those around you.
- Be an active bystander—if someone looks uncomfortable or distressed during an interaction, ask them if there is anything you can do to help. Visit the **Stand Up Against Street Harassment** website [ihollaback.org](http://ihollaback.org) to take a training on street harassment or bystander intervention.
- Ask women, girls, TGNCNB, and LGBTQ+ New Yorkers what they need to make public space more inclusive and to increase their participation in the design process.
- Know your rights when it comes to unfair and discriminatory pricing by following New York State "[Pink Tax Elimination](#)" legislation (SB 2679) at [ny.gov](http://ny.gov).



## For More Information

- Visit the Commission on Gender Equity at [nyc.gov/genderequity](http://nyc.gov/genderequity), the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence at [nyc.gov/endgbv](http://nyc.gov/endgbv), and the Commission on Human Rights [nyc.gov/humanrights](http://nyc.gov/humanrights) to learn more about services and opportunities to take action.
- Visit the NYC Unity Project to learn more about programs and services available to LGBTQ+ New Yorkers at [nyc.gov/unityproject](http://nyc.gov/unityproject).
- Report **any** harassment or discrimination to the NYC Commission on Human Rights by calling 311 or visiting [nyc.gov/humanrights](http://nyc.gov/humanrights).