

Gender Stereotypes Scenarios

Scenario 1

Anika is Métis and has been learning about culture from her grandmother. Anika was assigned “female” at birth but feels their gender identity is both male and female. Anika likes to go by the pronoun “they” instead of “she”. Anika has a style and expression that does not match up with other girls in the community. Anika’s grandmother is very accepting of Anika and tells stories about Two-Spirit people in their culture. One day, Anika is out shopping with their friend Ada for outfits for their high school prom. Anika picks up a pair of black dress pants to try on. Ada grabs the pants and says, “You need to stop being confused about who you are. You are a girl, so start acting like one, and wear a dress!”

What can Anika say?

How could you support Anika if they were your friend?

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Scenario 2

Gurvinder and Elisha are having lunch when Gurvinder starts talking about their friend, Dominick. Gurvinder says Dominick is so feminine that it makes him feel uncomfortable. He says he walks and talks like a girl, and that one time, he saw Dominick crying in the hallway. Real men do not cry, so he must be gay.

What can Elisha say?

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Scenario 3

On Monday at school, a rumour is going around that a girl was sexually assaulted at a party on the weekend. Lita overhears a group of students saying that the girl was “dressed like a slut in a short skirt, so she was asking for it.”

What can Lita say?

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Scenario 4

Jasmine identifies as a female and has dated boys all throughout high school, but now she finds herself attracted to girls. She recently started dating Elizabeth. They are meeting at the youth centre later today to hang out. Jasmine’s friend calls her to see what she is doing, and Jasmine tells her friend about her new dating partner, Elizabeth. Her friend gets upset and says, “You like guys. You cannot just change who you are attracted to and switch to liking girls—that is not normal.”

What can Jasmine say?

How could you support Jasmine if she were your friend?
