

# Gender and Language

One of the ways in which violence is normalized in a culture, is our way of saying things. Language is one way in which violence is normalized in our culture. You've probably heard, and perhaps even used, slang like: "I raped that exam," "I'd hit that," "That's so gay,"

It's tolerant of inappropriate attitudes and behaviors.

Gender roles and constructs are also reinforced by inappropriate language. For example, women who are assertive or opinionated and men who are passive or unassertive are often called "bitch" or "pussy" respectively. Gender roles are also reinforced by the use of "he" and "she" as pronouns. The use of "he" and "she" as pronouns is a way of reinforcing gender roles.

aggressive or promiscuous. Frequently, women who are seen as aggressive or promiscuous are called "bitch" or "pussy". In contrast, there are almost no offensive terms for men who are seen to be sexually dominant or aggressive. They are called names that are considered to be feminine, like "girl" or "freak".

Language is a powerful tool for reinforcing gender roles. The use of "he" and "she" as pronouns is a way of reinforcing gender roles. The use of "bitch" and "pussy" as terms for women who are assertive or opinionated is a way of reinforcing gender roles. The use of "girl" and "freak" as terms for men who are sexually dominant or aggressive is a way of reinforcing gender roles.