



10 pieces of advice for making a (gender)inclusive larp

There are many things you can do to make sure that your larp is inclusive towards everyone, regardless of gender. The list can be used as inspiration or direct check-list as needed. Remember to choose the approaches you feel like make sense for exactly your larp.

- 1. Ask yourself the question: does gender add anything useful to my larp?** This is a good place to start. Reasons that you answer *yes* can for example be that your larp has a special focus on gender-roles, that it has the relationship between genders as a theme or that you are making an edu-larp that is supposed to reflect a certain historical period and therefore needs to be 100% historically accurate. If your answer is *yes*, it is likely that not all the following pieces of advice are relevant for you. Answering *no* can be because you are not making a 100% historically accurate larp, which means that it would not be unrealistic to have a female knight.
- 2. Realism is only an argument if you are consistent.** Historically accuracy was touched upon above but let us go in more depth with it: if your players can immerse themselves in a larp that has orcs and vampires, they can also play along with having a female monarch. The same applies for situations that deal with whether something is biologically possible. For instance if a character in a larp is to become pregnant with a demon child, it does not need to be a female character who becomes "pregnant". It would never be biologically possible for someone to carry a demon child, so nevermind if it is a man, woman or someone else.
- 3. Representation in your material is important.** If women can be soldiers at your larp, make sure that there are female soldiers depicted on your press photos, your website and your flyers. The same applies if men can be keepers of the tavern. Make sure that your wish for diversity is more than just words and visible in your material.
- 4. Replace gendered job titles and titles in general with gender-neutral ones.** You can for example replace "chairman" with "chairperson" and "king" with "monarch".
- 5. Avoid stereotypical idioms.** It is important to remember that you cannot force players to use certain words, but if you use them yourself, in your written material and when you talk to your participants, it makes it more likely for them to take it in as part of the fiction. Also remember to instruct your NPCs and helpers in using these words.



- 6. Use gender-neutral pronouns when you write characters.** If you write characters for your players and/or when you write the fiction for your larp, try to refer to all characters as "they" instead of "he/she". This gives the players a possibility to choose a gender they are comfortable playing.
- 7. Add at least one extra option other than *man* and *woman* if you ask for your players gender when they sign up.** The extra option can for example be "other", "non-binary" or an empty space where the player can write on their own. It is also best to have an option saying "do not wish to say" since not all everyone will be comfortable sharing their gender identity with a stranger.
- 8. Consider using name and pronoun tags.** It is never nice to be addressed or talked about using the wrong pronouns, but for some it can be extra painful. It can for example be if someone is undergoing a transitioning process or if the person prefers gender-neutral pronouns. Luckily there are ways in which you can handle this challenge. You can have nametags where the participants can mark their preferred pronoun (they, he, she, hen etc.). These nametags can be used both off and in game. Simultaneously you can, when you refer to players you do not know the gender of, just use their name or gender-neutral pronoun. Try to also do this even when the player in question is not present. Gender-neutral pronouns can be "they/them". If you are made aware that you have accidentally used wrong pronouns about someone, you should apologize, correct your language and spread this information in your organizer group. If you wish to ask someone about their preferred pronouns, remember to do it one-to-one and not in front of others since it can be an embarrassing situation for some people.
- 9. Have gender-neutral toilets.** If your event is in a building with gendered toilets you can put up your own temporary signs over the gender-symbols. For example with the text "toilet with/without pissour. Alternatively, you can have a handicap-toilet opened. This is not ideal but it can give participants who are not comfortable categorizing as man or woman an option.
- 10. Have organizers of different genders.** It is not always possible or necessary to have organizers of different genders, but if it is possible it can be a good way of making an event more inclusive. Instead of trying to guess what people of another gender will need and want, it is better to have someone at the table when decisions are made.