

## **Gender, Sexuality and Identity**

### **Doctor's Office - Video 2**

Hershel Russell:

Some of the experiences I've had even more often are waiting room experiences. I'm sitting in the waiting room, and for all kinds of reasons I've kept my health card in the female gender, and I've been sitting in a waiting room for heart disease - because I have heart disease - and everybody in their hospital gown is a guy, pretty much, right? And the technician comes out and says, "Mrs. Russel. Mrs. Russel." And I'm kind of like, oh God, I'm going to have to expose myself in front of an entire waiting room of people. And I go and say something very polite to her, and she's very apologetic, but it's that kind of being made visible in a vulnerable situation that a lot of trans people are just not going to be able to tolerate; it's too painful. And it can be a really serious block to accessing healthcare. I know it's difficult with the filing system, but it can be done. Hospital after hospital, clinic after clinic have figured out how to do it so that we can be greeted by our preferred name and our preferred gender. It's really important.