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From: obedientfemme@aol.com (ObedientFemme)  
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>There is no strategic benefit to lumping such groups together. There is  
>no gain. If anything, there is harm to our causes. By lumping dissimilar  
>people with different issues and goals, how the hell is anyone  
>supposed to figure out what we want?

I agree with you to a degree. Every attempt to classify transgendered individuals along with transsexuals and cross dressers by using the "umbrella term" transgendered has met with disaster, in my opinion.

I am transgendered, not transsexual; and, I no more want to be considered transsexual than to be considered a cross dresser.

Then, again, there's the confusion factor. When we are lumped together and I say I am transgendered, no one understand what I mean. Do I mean I am transgendered, in that I define myself as a woman on the basis of gender? Do I mean that I am transsexual in that I define myself on the basis of a sex change operation? Or, do I mean that I am a cross dresser -- a man who enjoys wearing female attire but who still identifies as a man.

If there was a way to identify each specific group, and to identify the concerns of each specific group, while still asserting that for each group there are human and civil rights violations, then I would say unification would be a good way to garner forces. However, I simply don't believe we will ever get along well enough to make that strategy doable.

Roberta Angela Dee