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University ends use of Mr, Ms and Mrs – 25th July, 2018

Level 0

A university in South Africa will not use titles like Mr, Ms or Mrs with students. It wants to support transgender people. A statement read: "It is [upsetting] for a person who, for example, was...female at birth but identifies as male to be...addressed by [another] title." Transgender people are choosing the gender-neutral title "Mx".

The university said it, "opposes all...discrimination on the basis of gender identity". An official said: "We want people in our university community to feel safe." A law professor said it was, "the most wonderful moment for true equality." [and] a triumph for an understanding of the diversity of gender identity."

Level 1

A university in South Africa will no longer use titles like Mr, Ms or Mrs when it communicates with students. It wants to support people who are transgender. A statement read: "The university realizes that it is [upsetting] for a person who, for example, was...female at birth but identifies as male to be constantly addressed by [another] title." Transgender people are choosing the gender-neutral title "Mx". This is legal in many countries.

The decision is very popular. The university said it, "opposes all...discrimination on the basis of gender identity". An official said: "We want people in our university community to feel safe, supported and...respected." A law professor said the action was, "the most wonderful moment for true equality". She added: "It's a triumph for an understanding of the diversity of gender identity...and the right to be respected for whomever you are."

Level 2

A university in South Africa will no longer use titles like Mr, Ms or Mrs. The Witwatersrand Uni. will stop using these titles when communicating with students. It wants to support people who are transgender. A statement read: "The university realizes that it is invalidating and distressing for a person who, for example, was...female at birth but identifies as male to be constantly addressed by a non-affirming title." People who are transgender are choosing the gender-neutral title "Mx". This is legally recognized in many countries across the world.

The decision is popular in the university community. The university said it, "opposes all public and private discrimination on the basis of gender identity". An official said: "We want people in our university community to feel safe, supported and ultimately respected...It means a lot being in a space which is welcoming." A law professor said the action was, "the most wonderful moment for true equality". She added: "It's a triumph for an understanding of the diversity of gender identity, sexual orientation and the right to be respected for whomever you are."

Level 3

A university in South Africa has decided to no longer use titles such as Mr, Ms or Mrs. The University of the Witwatersrand said it will stop using these titles on any form of communication with students. It took this decision to support people who were transgender or gender non-conforming. A statement from officials read: "The university realizes that it is invalidating and distressing for a person who, for example, was...female at birth but identifies as male to be constantly addressed by a non-affirming title." It added that people who were transgender or non-binary are choosing the gender-neutral title "Mx," which is legally recognized in many countries across the world.

The decision has been widely welcomed by the university community. The university said it, "opposes all public and private discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression". A university official said: "We want people in our university community to feel safe, supported and ultimately respected. As a transgender person myself, it means a lot being in a space which is welcoming." A law professor said the action was, "the most wonderful moment for true equality across a multitude of spectrums". She added: "It's a triumph for an understanding of the diversity of gender identity, sexual orientation and the right to be respected for whomever you are."