



BEYOND ALLYSHIP: BECOMING A TRANSGENDER ACCOMPLICE

Insights from Nia Chiaramonte's "I
Hardly Knew Me"

WHAT IS AN ACCOMPLICE?

While allies support from the sidelines, accomplices actively stand with LGBTQIA+ individuals in their journey, taking meaningful action and sharing in the work of creating change.

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR BEING AN ACCOMPLICE

LISTEN & LEARN

- Practice deep listening without formulating responses while someone is speaking.
- Educate yourself independently rather than relying on trans people to teach you.
- Recognize that each person's journey is unique - what worked for one may not work for another.

RESPECT IDENTITY

- Use correct names and pronouns consistently, even when the person isn't present.
- Apologize simply and move forward when you make mistakes with name or pronouns.
- Never apply labels a person hasn't chosen for themselves.
- Avoid assumptions about someone's gender identity, expression, or journey.



SPEAK UP

- Challenge anti-trans remarks in public spaces and private conversations.
- Correct others respectfully when they misgender someone, even if the trans person isn't present.
- Advocate for inclusive policies in your workplace, faith community, and social circles.
- Share positive transgender stories to counter negative narratives.

TAKE ACTION

- Show up physically at events, rallies, and celebrations important to the trans community
- - Create safe spaces where transgender individuals can be authentically themselves
- - Support transgender-owned businesses and organizations
- - Vote for candidates who protect transgender rights

OFFER MEANINGFUL SUPPORT

- Ask "What do you need?" rather than assuming what would be helpful.
- Provide practical assistance during transition periods (rides to appointments, recovery help).
- Celebrate milestones like name changes, coming out, and other significant moments.
- Be patient and present through the emotional ups and downs.

REMEMBER:

Being an accomplice is about being with, not just being for, so presence matters more than perfection.