

RELEVANT COMMENTS*
GENDER NEUTRAL LEGACIES
2016 FEB AWSC/PRE CON; 2018 FALL ASSEMBLY; 2019 FEB AWSC

SUPPORT:

- ❖ Our group really supports this motion.
- ❖ This language is divisive, it hurts unity.
- ❖ Members often change the language during meetings.
- ❖ We need to update our language to reflect linguistic and cultural changes.
- ❖ Male pronouns deny my experience as a woman, being invisible.
- ❖ Turned away from program for years due to God being described as a 'he'.
- ❖ The pronoun, 'he' is probably from a Christian background and that's an outside issue.
- ❖ It makes it harder for people who are already struggling with concept of Higher Power.
- ❖ Don't think of God as a human being.
- ❖ I am super Christian and I am in support of changing the language.
- ❖ This would remove a barrier and make us more accessible for present and future generations.
- ❖ Minority voice is important.
- ❖ We owe teens a more inclusive program.
- ❖ We have the opportunity to be of service and work our process.
- ❖ Principles over personality. (Tradition 12)
- ❖ Puts spiritual principles on the line.
- ❖ Maybe it's not working (anymore).
- ❖ If we push people away, we have to look at that. (Traditions 1, 5, 11)
- ❖ Keep an open mind about this topic. Be open to change.
- ❖ The existence of a process for change is a sign that we knew change would be needed. Trust the process.
- ❖ It's an issue, having been brought up a lot over the years. Whether you agree or not, it needs to be talked about.
- ❖ I love this family and I am glad we are talking about this.

CONCERNS:**

- ❖ Wish we knew how many people have refused to participate in Al-Anon due to this.
- ❖ Believe this issue is divisive and intolerant.
- ❖ Isn't this an outside issue? It distracts from our primary purpose and spiritual aim.
- ❖ How can we accommodate everyone? Al-Anon won't be a fit for everyone at all times.
- ❖ We are free as individuals to think of the God of our understanding in whatever gender or no gender that we wish.
- ❖ For those who in the past have been abused by males, Al-Anon can help and heal those wounds.
- ❖ Isn't "He" already gender neutral?
- ❖ It's already inclusive and working. Why change it?
- ❖ What else will change?
- ❖ What would it cost to change?
- ❖ Why not change God's name to Higher Power or something else?
- ❖ Would we still be following AA's Steps and Traditions?
- ❖ Hasn't this already been voted on and decided?
- ❖ Unsure how the process works to making changes to the Legacies.
- ❖ What is the WSO process for translating literature into other languages?
- ❖ With the difficulties in making a change to the Legacies, why would we consider trying?

*Some comments were not recorded due to battery issues 2018 Fall Assembly and inability to obtain audio for 2019 Feb AWSC.

**Responses to many of these concerns are noted in the Appendix C.