

# Transgender professor at Kingsborough College sues school over gender discrimination



Red Washburn

A transgender English professor at Kingsborough College says colleagues' failure to use up-to-date they/them pronouns partly justifies they/their lawsuit against the school for gender discrimination.

Red Washburn, who uses they/them pronouns and has taught English and Women and Gender Studies at the CUNY Brooklyn community college since 2011, alleges in a Brooklyn Federal Court lawsuit filed Friday that the school began discriminating against them in 2017 when they came out as transgender.

Washburn's boss continually referred to the professor as "Amy" despite the fact that Washburn legally changed their name to "Red." Colleagues also continued to use the pronouns "she" and "her" for Washburn, despite the fact that the professor repeatedly advised them to use they/them pronouns.

"While occasional misgendering could be attributed to innocent error, the protracted and continuing misgendering of Dr. Washburn, despite continued notice, created a hostile environment based on gender," the lawsuit says.

Washburn claims the school defunded the Women and Gender Studies department soon after Washburn came out as transgender.

"Six months after I came out as trans at work by requesting a name and pronoun change and sharing that I was getting top surgery, Kingsborough's administration announced that it was defunding my concentration," Washburn [wrote in an op-ed](#) for the Daily News in June.