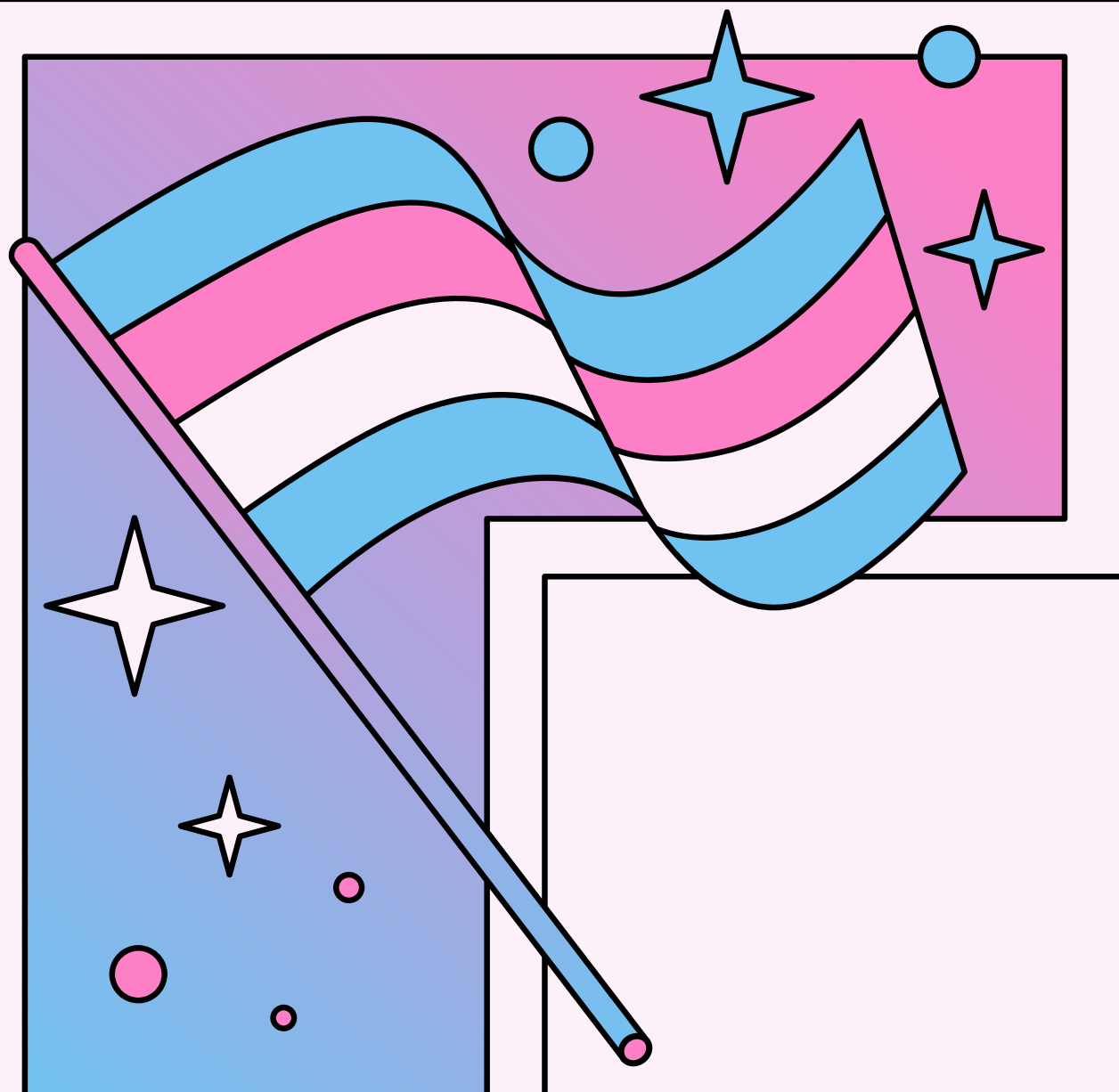


THE WORLD HAS NEVER BEEN BINARY



Tida Wena Venezuela

In the Warao tribe, third-gender individuals, or Tida Wena, have historically been well integrated into the tribe and are often given important or revered roles.



Fa'afafine Samoa

Most Samoans say they are friends with at least one fa'afafine person. Fa'afafine footballer Jaiyah Saelua (pictured) garnered (inter)national fame playing for the American Samoa national team.



Hijra India, Pakistan & Bangladesh

Hijra have been recognized as part of societies on the Indian subcontinent for centuries. In 2014, the Indian Supreme Court gave third-gender individuals full legal recognition.



Muxe Mexico (Oaxaca)

Rooted in Zapotec culture, muxe are respected in many communities and play an important role in keeping Zapotec language, culture and traditional dress alive. An annual celebration known as the vela (vigil) celebrates muxe culture and community, and is celebrated beyond communities in Oaxaca — the muxe community of Los Angeles also hosts one!

Chibados were often shamans in the Ndongo culture, holding important positions as spiritual arbiters, performers of funeral rites, and military decision-makers. Assigned male at birth, pre-colonization, the chibados lived freely as women (elders were referred to as “Grandmother”) and marriages between chibados and men were not only accepted, but prized.



Chibados Angola



Mahu Hawai'i

Although typically associated with people assigned male at birth, the term “Mahu” now encompasses a variety of gender identities. In pre-colonization Hawai'iian society, Mahu were respected as healers and keepers of culture and tradition, especially hula dance and chants, and many still play these roles in their communities today.

More recently, mahu have had visibility in American popular culture when mahu drag queen Sasha Colby (pictured) won *RuPaul's Drag Race*.