“Hey, You Guys!”

Imagine someone walking up to a group of guys and saying, “Hey, girls, how’re ya doing?” We doubt they’d be amused! So isn’t it weird that women are supposed to accept – even like – being called “one of the guys?” We’re also supposed to like “freshman,” “chairman,” and “mankind.”

Get over it, some people say. Those words are generic. They apply to everyone. But then how come so-called generics are always male?

What if generics ended in “white?” Freshwhite, chairwhite, whitekind, and “Hey, you whiteys!” Would people of color like being called “one of the whites?”

The term “guys” makes women invisible by lumping them in with men. Let’s quit doing that. When you’re talking to a group of customers, gender really doesn’t matter, so why not replace “you guys” with “you all,” “folks,” or “y’all.”
Or simply say, “What can I get you?” That would take care of us all.

Thanks for your help.

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