

Basic LGBTQ Terms and Definitions

Agender | Also called genderless, genderfree, non-gendered, or ungendered, is someone who identifies as having no gender or being without a gender identity.

Asexual | The lack of a sexual attraction or desire for other people.

Bigender | a gender identity that includes any two gender identities

Bisexual | A person emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one sex, gender or gender identity though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.

Cisgender | A term used to describe a person whose gender identity aligns with those typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth.

Gay | A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same gender.

Gender-expansive | Conveys a wider, more flexible range of gender identity and/or expression than typically associated with the binary gender system.

Gender expression | External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, haircut or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.

Gender-fluid | A person who does not identify with a single fixed gender; of or relating to a person having or expressing a fluid or unfixed gender identity.

Gender identity | One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.

Gender non-conforming | A broad term referring to people who do not behave in a way that conforms to the traditional expectations of their gender, or whose gender expression does not fit neatly into a category.

Genderqueer | Genderqueer people typically reject notions of static categories of gender and embrace a fluidity of gender identity and often, though not always, sexual orientation. People who identify as "genderqueer" may see themselves as being both male and female, neither male nor female or as falling completely outside these categories.

Intersex | A general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male.

Lesbian | A woman who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to other women.

LGBTQ+ | An acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer." Frequently used as an umbrella term for the sexual and gender minority communities and can encompass more identities than just those listed.

Pansexual | A sexual orientation not limited in attraction with regard to biological sex, gender, or gender identity.

Queer | A term people often use to express fluid identities and orientations. Often used interchangeably with "LGBTQ."

Questioning | A term used to describe people who are in the process of exploring their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Same- sex/gender attracted | A term some prefer to use instead of lesbian, gay or bisexual to express attraction to and love of people of the same gender.

Sexual/gender minority | A group whose sexual/gender identity or orientation differ from the majority of the surrounding society. Typically used to refer to LGBTQ+ individuals

Sexual orientation | An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people. Separate from gender identity.

Transgender | An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.