

LGBTIQ+ Glossary of terms

LGBTIQ+ | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, and all others of diverse gender, sex and sexuality.

Ally | A person who is not LGBTIQ+ but shows support for LGBTIQ+ people and promotes equality in a variety of ways.

Androgynous | Identifying and/or presenting as neither distinguishably masculine nor feminine.

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

Biphobia | Prejudice, fear or hatred directed toward bisexual people.

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.

Closeted | Describes an LGBTIQ+ person who has not disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Coming out | The process in which a person first acknowledges, accepts and appreciates their sexual orientation or gender identity and begins to share that with others.

Demigirl/boy | Regardless of their assigned sex at birth, a person who identifies as demigirl (demiboy) identifies as more feminine (masculine) than masculine (feminine) or fully nonbinary. This includes birth-assigned women (men) who feel a degree of disconnection

with that identity but don't experience full-on dysphoria as a result of it. It can also include birth-assigned men (women) who identify as more female than male, though not fully female or nonbinary.

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

Gender | Gender refers to the way in which a person identifies or expresses their masculine or feminine traits and the way they are recognised within a community. A person's gender identity may not always be exclusively male or female and does not always correspond with the sex assigned at birth.

Gender dysphoria | Clinically significant distress caused when a person's assigned birth gender is not the same as the one with which they identify. According to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the term - which replaces Gender Identity Disorder - "is intended to better characterize the experiences of affected children, adolescents, and adults."

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

Gender-fluid | According to the Oxford English Dictionary, 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. Further, a person may not identify as exclusively as a man or a woman.

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.

Gender transition | The process by which some people strive to more closely align their internal knowledge of gender with its outward appearance. Some people socially transition, whereby they might begin dressing, using names and pronouns and/or be socially recognized as another gender. Others undergo physical transitions in which they modify their bodies through medical interventions.

Heterosexual | an individual who is sexually and/or romantically attracted to the opposite gender.

Homophobia | The fear and hatred of or discomfort with people who are attracted to members of the same sex.

Intersex | A person born with genetic, hormonal or physical sex characteristics that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies. Intersex people have a diversity of bodies and identities. While some intersex characteristics are apparent at birth, not every person is the same. For some, their intersex characteristics will only become apparent later in life.

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

LGBTIQ+ | An acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer."

Mx | Is a title (e.g. Mr., Ms., etc.) that is gender neutral. Pronounced miks, (similar to Ms) it is often the option of choice for folks who do not identify as cisgender.

Non-binary | An adjective describing a person who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling completely outside these categories. While many also identify as transgender, not all non-binary people do.

Out | A state in which LGBTIQ+ people are comfortably out about their sexual orientation or gender identity – where and when it feels appropriate to them.

Outing | Exposing someone's lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender identity to others without their permission. Outing someone can have serious repercussions on employment, economic stability, personal safety or religious or family situations.

Pansexual | Describes someone who has the potential for emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to people of any gender though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.

Queer | A term people often use to express fluid identities and orientations. Often used interchangeably with "LGBTIQ." Usually the 'Q' in LGBTIQ+.

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

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

Sex or sex characteristics | refers to physical features relating to sex. It arises from a variety of factors including gonads, internal reproductive anatomy, external genitalia, allosomes, hormones, endocrinology, secondary physical features emerging at puberty and so on.

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

Sistergirl/Brotherboy | Terms used for transgender people within some Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities, particularly in the north of Australia. Sistergirls and Brotherboys have distinct cultural identities and roles. Sistergirls are Indigenous women who were classified male at birth but live their lives as women. Brotherboys are Indigenous men who were classified female at birth.

Transgender/Trans | 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.

Trans man/boy | A person assigned female at birth who now identifies as male

Trans woman/girl | A person assigned male at birth who now identifies as female.

Transphobia | The fear and hatred of, or discomfort with, transgender people.

Adapted from:

Human Rights Campaign <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>

Australian Institute of Family Studies <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/lgbtiq-communities>

Tasmanian Law Reform Institute – Legal Recognition of Sex and Gender, Issue Paper no, 29, 2019
https://www.utas.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1240484/BDM-Report-v2.pdf