

LGBTQ2+ TERMS

IDENTITY TERMS

LESBIAN A woman who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to other women. To describe themselves women and non-binary people may use this term. To describe themselves women and non-binary people may use this term.

GAY A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same gender. To describe themselves, men, women and non-binary people may use this term.

BISEXUAL A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one gender, sex or gender identity.

TRANSGENDER A person whose gender identity and/or gender expression is different from the sex they were assigned at birth.

QUEER A term used by some people in the LGBTQ2+ community to describe themselves or their community. It can refer to a spectrum of identities and orientations to include those who do not identify as straight.

2 SPIRIT A person who identifies as having both a masculine and feminine spirit. It is used by some Indigenous people to describe their sexual, gender and/or spiritual identity.

QUESTIONING A term used to describe the process of a person exploring their sexual orientation, sexual identity and/or gender.

INTERSEX People born with difference in their reproductive anatomy and sex traits. Variations include differences in; genitalia, internal sex organs, hormone production, chromosomes, hormone response, gonads and secondary sex traits.

ASEXUAL The absence of desire or sexual attraction to other people.

ALLY A person who is actively supportive of the LGBTQ2+ community and people within it. This can refer to straight or cisgender allies as well as those in the community that support each other.

PANSEXUAL This term describes someone who has potential for emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to people of any gender.

CISGENDER A person whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth.

GENDER-FLUID A person who does not identify themselves as having a fixed gender.

GENDER IDENTITY A person's internal and individual experience of how they perceive themselves as being male, female, a blend of both or neither. A person's gender identity can be the same or different from their assigned sex at birth.

GENDER NONCONFORMING A term referring to people who do not conform with the gender norms that are expected of them. This can refer to gender expression, presentation, behavior or preferences.

GENDERQUEER A person who exists in a way that may not align with heterosexual or homosexual norms. Can be used to describe a person's sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

NON-BINARY A term describing a person who does not identify as male or female exclusively.

SAME-GENDER LOVING A term that some people use instead of homosexual, gay, lesbian or bisexual to express their emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to someone of the same sex.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION Used to describe a person's identity in relation to the gender and/or genders that they are emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to.

LGBTQ2+ TERMS

OTHER TERMS

ANDROGYNOUS Someone who has characteristics or nature of both feminine and masculine traits.

BIPHOBIA A dislike, fear, hatred or discomfort of people who are emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one gender.

COMING OUT A term used for a person who acknowledges and accepts their sexual orientation and/or gender identity and begins to disclose it with others.

GENDER Refers to the characteristics that are socially constructed of men and women.

GENDER DYSPHORIA Significant discomfort or distress that occurs in a person whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth.

GENDER-EXPANSIVE An umbrella term sometimes used to describe people who expand notions of gender expression and identity beyond perceived or expected societal gender norms.

GENDER EXPRESSION The external appearance of one's gender identity and mode that a person communicates gender to others, which can come in the form of appearance and mannerisms that may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors. An individual's gender expression does not automatically imply one's gender identity; all people have gender expressions.

GENDER TRANSITION Some transgender people undergo a process to match their outward appearance to their gender identity. This could be done by changing pronouns, names, clothes. Healthcare needs such as hormones or surgeries may be included.

HOMOPHOBIA A dislike, fear, hatred or discomfort of people who are emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same sex.

HOMOSEXUALITY When a person is emotionally, romantically and sexually attracted to someone of the same sex.

HETEROSEXUALITY When a person is emotionally, romantically and sexually attracted to someone of the opposite sex.

OUTING Exposing someone's sexual identity and/or sexual orientation to others without their permission.

SEX Refers to the differences between males and females biologically. This includes genitalia and genetic differences.