

Glossary of LGBTQ+ & Gender Terms

Abrosexual:

An individual that has a fluid and/or rapidly changing sexuality that fluctuates between different sexualities.

Affirmed gender:

The gender by which one wishes to be known. This term is often used to replace terms like new gender or chosen gender, which imply that an individual's gender was not always their gender or that the gender was chosen rather than simply in existence.

Agender:

Refers to a person who does not identify with any gender.

Ally:

A term used to describe someone who is supportive of LGBTQ individuals and the community, either personally or as an advocate. Whereas allies to the LGB community typically identify as straight, allies to the transgender community also come from the LGBTQ community. Transgender individuals who identify as straight can be allies to the LGB community as well.

Androgyne:

An androgynous individual.

Androgynous:

Typically used to describe a person's appearances or clothing as having elements of both femininity and masculinity.

Aromantic:

Refers to an individual who does not experience romantic attraction.

Asexual:

A person who does not experience sexual attraction. Unlike celibacy, which people choose, asexuality is an intrinsic part of who we are. There is considerable diversity among the asexual community; each asexual person experiences things like relationships, attraction, and arousal somewhat differently. Asexuality does not make our lives any worse or any better, we just face a different set of challenges than most sexual people. Asexuality is distinct from celibacy or sexual abstinence, which are behaviors, while asexuality is generally considered to be a sexual orientation. Some asexuals do participate in some forms of sex, for a variety of reasons.

Assigned sex:

The sex that is assigned to an infant at birth based on the child's visible sex organs, including genitalia and other physical characteristics.

Assigned gender:

The gender that is assigned to an infant at birth which is meant to correspond to the child's assigned sex.

Assumed gender:

The gender others assume an individual to be based on the sex they are assigned at birth, as well as apparent gender markers such as physical build, voice, clothes, and hair.

Babyboy:

A male who identifies as or role plays as a young boy. Occasionally used as a nickname for a male submissive.

Babygirl:

A female who identifies as or role plays as a young girl. Sometimes used as a nickname for a female submissive.

Bear Community:

a part of the queer community composed of queer men similar in looks and interests, most of them big, hairy, friendly and affectionate. The community aims to provide spaces where one feels wanted, desired, and liked. It nourishes and values an individual's process of making friends, of learning self-care and self-love through the unity and support of the community. Bears, Cubs, Otters, Wolves, Chasers, Admirers and other wildlife comprise what has come to be known as the Brotherhood of Bears and/or the Bear community.

Bigender:

Someone who identifies with both male and female genders, or even a third gender.

Biological sex:

Refers to anatomical, physiological, genetic, or physical attributes that determine if a person is male, female, or intersex. These include genitalia, gonads, hormone levels, hormone receptors, chromosomes, genes, and secondary sex characteristics. Sex is often confused or interchanged with gender, which involves personal identity and social factors, and is not determined by biological sex.

Biphobia:

Prejudice, fear or hatred directed toward bisexual people.

Bisexual:

Refers to an individual who has the capacity for attraction—sexually, romantically, emotionally, or otherwise—to people with the same, and to people with a different, gender and/or gender identity as themselves. People who identify as bisexual need not have had equal experience- or equal levels of attraction- with people across genders, nor any experience at all: it is merely attraction and self-identification that determine orientation. Bisexuality, as it is frequently used today, can act as an umbrella term that encapsulates many identities such as pansexual. Sometimes referred to as bi or bi+.

Boy:

A submissive male or a male who identifies as or plays the role of a young boy.

Brother:

A very close male friend or male friend under the control of the same Dominant.

Butch:

An overtly masculine dressing/acting lesbian (as opposed to a femme). Sometimes used to describe a gay man. This does not necessarily define the person's role in a sexual or D/s relationship.

Cisgender/Cis:

Describes a person whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Crossdresser/Transvestite:

A person who dresses and acts in a style or manner traditionally associated with the opposite sex. (this has nothing to do with their sexual identity)

Daddy:

Someone who takes on a father role in a relationship; often, but not always, a Dominant.

Demisexual:

a person who does not experience sexual attraction unless they form a strong emotional connection with someone. It's more commonly seen in, but by no means confined to, romantic relationships. The term demisexual comes from the orientation being "halfway between" sexual and asexual. Nevertheless, this term does not mean that demisexuals have an incomplete or half-sexuality, nor does it mean that sexual attraction without emotional connection is required for a complete sexuality. In general, demisexuals are not sexually attracted to anyone of any gender; however, when a demisexual is emotionally connected to someone else (whether the feelings are romantic love or deep friendship), the demisexual experiences sexual attraction and desire, but only towards the specific partner or partners.

Femme or FEM:

A person exhibiting stereotypical or exaggerated feminine traits.

Fluctuating/Evolving:

Having unpredictable ups and downs. Undergoing gradual change.

Gender Dysphoria:

Refers to psychological distress that results from an incongruence between one's sex assigned at birth and one's gender identity. Not all trans people experience dysphoria, and those who do may experience it at varying levels of intensity.

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.

Gender Outlaw:

A person who refuses to be defined by conventional definitions of male and female.

Genderqueer:

Is most commonly used to describe people who feel that their gender identities do not fit into the socially constructed “norms” associated with his/her biological sex. Genderqueer is an identity that can be both male and female, or neither.

Girl:

A female submissive or a female who identifies as or plays the role of a young girl.

Gender socialization:

The process by which individual is taught how they should behave as a boy or as a girl. Parents, teachers, peers, media, and books are some of the many agents of gender socialization.

Gender spectrum:

The concept that gender exists beyond a simple man/woman binary model, but instead exists on a continuum. Some people fall towards more masculine or more feminine aspects, some people move fluidly along the spectrum, and some identify off the spectrum entirely.

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.

Gender variant:

A term, often used by the medical community, to describe children, youth, and some individuals who dress, behave, or express themselves in a way that does not conform to dominant gender norms. (See gender nonconforming.) People outside the medical community tend to avoid this term because they feel it suggests these identities are abnormal, preferring terms such as gender expansive and gender creative.

Heterosexism:

The assumption that sexuality between people of different sexes is normal, standard, superior or universal and other sexual orientations are substandard, inferior, abnormal, marginal or invalid.

Homophobia:

An aversion to lesbian or gay people that often manifests itself in the form of prejudice and bias. Similarly, biphobia is an aversion that people who are bisexual, and transphobia is an aversion to people who are transgender. Homophobic, biphobic, and transphobic are the related adjectives. Collectively, these attitudes are referred to as anti- LGBTQ bias.

Homosexual:

An outdated clinical term often considered derogatory and offensive, as opposed to the generally preferred terms, gay, lesbian, or queer.

Intergender:

Someone whose identity is between genders and/or a combination of gender identities and expressions.

Intersex/differences of sexual development (DSD):

Refers to individuals born with ambiguous genitalia or bodies that appear neither typically male nor female, often arising from chromosomal anomalies or ambiguous genitalia. Medical professionals often assign a gender to the individual and proceeded to perform surgeries to 'align' their physical appearance with typical male or female sex characteristics beginning in infancy and often continuing into adolescence, before a child is able to give informed consent.

Intersectionality:

The idea that people who find themselves at the crossroads of multiple identities (for example, in terms of race, gender, or sexuality) experience discrimination in a way uniquely different from those whom they may only share one or some identities in common.

Heteroflexible:

A person who identifies themselves as primarily heterosexual but can occasionally find the same sex appealing.

Homoflexible:

A person who identifies themselves as primarily homosexual but can occasionally find the opposite sex appealing.

Lesbian:

A female homosexual.

Mentor:

A trusted adviser or counselor to someone who has already gained basic knowledge and experience. A mentor is a person who has considerable knowledge and experience and usually, in the eyes of the mentee, substantial wisdom. A mentor may or may not train or play with the person they are mentoring. A mentor provides advice and suggestions and encourages and recommends resources for their mentee to use in a process of self-learning.

Misgender:

To refer to someone, especially a transgender or gender-expansive person, using a word, especially a pronoun or form of address, which does not correctly reflect the gender with which they identify.

Mommy:

Someone who takes on a motherly type role in a relationship; often, but not always, a Dominant.

Nonbinary:

People who do not describe themselves or their genders as fitting into the categories of man or woman.

Omnigender:

Possessing all genders. The term is used specifically to refute the concept of only two genders.

Out:

Generally, describes people who openly self-identify as LGBTQ in their private, public, and/or professional lives. Sometimes, individuals are outed by others who they may have already come out to. Outing an LGBTQ person without their consent is disrespectful and potentially dangerous for the LGBTQ individual. Some people who are transgender prefer to use the term disclose (defined above).

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:

Refers to a person whose emotional, romantic, and/or physical attraction is to people of all genders and biological sexes. People who are pansexual need not have had any sexual experience; it is the attraction and self-identification that determines the orientation. Often included under the umbrella of bisexuality.

Pangender:

Someone whose identity is comprised of all or many gender identities and expressions.

Polysexual/Polyamorous:

Attraction to multiple partners simultaneously. Poly people can also be bi, straight, gay, pan, or other type of orientation. They have two or more partners at the same time; these relationships can be very healthy and happy, so remember that even if a certain type of relationship doesn't work for you, doesn't mean you get to say what does and doesn't work for other people.

Pronouns:

Linguistic tools used to refer to someone in the third person. Examples are they/them/theirs, ze/hir/hirs, she/her/hers, he/him/his. In English and some other languages, pronouns have

been tied to gender and are a common site of misgendering (attributing a gender to someone that is incorrect.)

Queer:

Pertains to LGBTQ+ (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex or any non-heterosexual person, non-binary person) A term used by some people—particularly youth—to describe themselves and/or their community. Reclaimed from its earlier negative use, the term is valued by some for its defiance, by some because it can be inclusive of the entire community, and by others who find it to be an appropriate term to describe their more fluid identities. Can still be a negative or pejorative term for people who are gay, queer is still sometimes disliked within the LGBTQ community.

Sister:

A very close female friend or a female friend under the control of the same dominant.

Skoliosexual:

Someone who is attracted to non-cisgender people. This includes trans, gender fluid, androgynous, and other gender-queer people.

Stealth:

A term used to describe transgender or gender-expansive individuals who do not disclose their transgender or gender-expansive status in their public or private lives (or certain aspects of their public and private lives). The term is increasingly considered offensive by some as it implies an element of deception. The phrase maintaining privacy is often used instead, though some individuals use both terms interchangeably.

Stone: (as in stone butch, stone femme or stone Top)

A person who tops partners sexually (and sometimes emotionally), but are averse to sexual contact with your genitalia. Someone who does not allow their body to be touched (or even seen naked).

Straight:

A person sexually responsive to the opposite sex.

Transgender:

A term which incorporates Cross-dressers, Transvestites, Transsexuals, Drag kings or queens of any operation status or gender. Someone who plays or acts the role of the opposite gender. May or may not use hormones.

Transsexual: (female to male/male to female)

A person who was born with female/male genitalia, but identifies as the opposite gender. Someone who may be undergoing hormone treatment/therapy and gender transition surgeries/plastic surgery.

Vanilla:

A person without BDSM inclinations or a fetish.