

Language is Important: Defining the words we use.

Just some, but not all...

LGBT Definitions

LGBTQIQIAA	There are numerous variations on the basic LGBT (sometimes written as GLBT) acronym, used by some people to be more inclusive. The acronym used here represents Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Two-Spirit, Queer, Intersex,	Genderqueer/ Third Gender/ Gender Fluid/ Bi- Gender/ Gender Fluid/ Pangender/ Polygender	Terms are used by people who identify as being between and/or other than man or woman. They may feel they are neither, a little bit of both, or they may simply feel restricted by gender labels. People may identify as gender variations other than the traditional, dichotomous view of male and female. People who self-refer with these terms may identify and present themselves as both or alternatively male and female, as no gender, or as a gender outside the male/female binary.
Biological sex	A label that is assigned at birth, based upon observation of genitalia, reproductive organs, hormones, and chromosomes.	Two-Spirit	People who display characteristics of both male and female genders. Sometimes referred to as a third gender – the male-female gender. The term is derived from the traditions of some Native North American cultures.
Gender identity	How you, in your head, think about your self, your personal sense of being a woman or man, genderqueer, or gender variant.	Gender Non-conforming/ Gender Variant	General terms for people who bend gender in some way (identity and/or expression), which do not adhere to stereotypes and “norms;” and/or have non-binary gender
Gender expression	How you communicate your gender (based on traditional roles) through your behavior, clothing, haircut, voice, mannerisms, and interactions with others.	Intersex	A spectrum of conditions involving anomalies of the sex chromosomes, gonads, reproductive ducts, and/or genitalia.
Sexual orientation	Who you are physically, emotionally, and spiritually attracted to.	Asexual; Bisexual; Pansexual	Terms used by people who have romantic attractions that do not adhere to dichotomy of male or female attraction or strict gender-based attractions.
Gender assignment	Based on body parts; how the	Gender Affirmation	Recognizing and accepting one’s gender identity and/or expression; or the process of changes made to affirm one’s gender.
Trans*	An umbrella term for any person whose gender identity differs from the gender associated with their assigned birth sex	Stealth	When a transgender person who has transitioned into a different sex or gender does not divulge the fact of transition. When a person has gone through gender affirmation
Cisgender	When our gender assignment and gender identity agree		
Gender binary	A system of classifying sex and gender into two distinct and disconnected forms, male/man/masculine and female/woman/feminine, and assigning all bodies, identities, roles, and attributes to one side of the divide or the other.		
Gender Dysphoria	Unhappiness with one's biological sex or its usual gender role, with the desire for the body		

If you’re not sure, don’t presume...Ask!