

## LGBTQ+ Terminology

**AFAB/AMAB:** acronyms meaning assigned female/male at birth

**Agender:** a term which can be literally translated as 'without gender'. It can be seen either as a non-binary gender identity or as a statement of not having a gender identity

**Ally:** someone who advocates and supports a community other than their own

**Aromantic:** a person with a lack or low level of romantic attraction for others

**Asexual:** a person with a lack or low level of sexual attraction for others

**Bisexual:** a person who has the potential to be physically, romantically, emotionally and/or spiritually attracted to members of two or more genders

**Cisgender:** a term for people who identify with the sex they were assigned at birth

**Cissexism:** systemic prejudice in favor of cisgender people

**Demigender:** an umbrella term for someone who identifies partially with one gender, may be seen as demiboy or demigirl

**Demisexual:** a person who does not experience sexual attraction unless they form a strong emotional connection first

**Gay:** a person who is physically, romantically, emotionally and/or spiritually attracted to people of the same gender

**Gender Affirming/Confirming Surgery:** refers to surgical alteration and is only one part of some trans people's transition

**Gender Dysphoria:** an intense and persistent discomfort that some trans people face with the primary and secondary sex characteristics of their assigned birth sex

**Gender Expansive/ Creative:** refers to a wider, more flexible range of gender identities or expressions than those typically associated with the binary gender system, often used with young people

**Gender Expression/Presentation:** the physical manifestation of one's gender identity through clothing, hairstyle, voice, body shape, etc. that are socially defined as masculine, feminine and/or neutral

**Gender Fluid:** a changing or "fluid" gender identity

**Gender Identity:** a person's internal, deeply-felt sense of being either male, female, something other, or in between

**Heteronormative:** the assumption that heterosexuality is the norm

**Intersex:** an umbrella term used to describe a variety of combinations of chromosomes, hormones, internal sex organs and genitals that differ from the expected patterns of male or female

**Lesbian:** a person who is female-identified and is attracted to some other females

**Non-Binary:** an umbrella term that reflects gender identities that don't fit within the accepted binary of male and female, in which individuals can feel they are both genders, neither or some mixture thereof

**Pansexual:** a person who has the potential to be physically, romantically, emotionally and/or spiritually attracted to members of all gender identities/expressions

**Queer:** a reclaimed term for people of marginalized gender identities and sexual orientations who are not cisgender and/or heterosexual

**Sex Assigned at Birth:** the assignment and classification of people as male, female, intersex or another sex assigned at birth often based on physical anatomy

**Sexual Orientation:** a person's enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction to others

**Transgender:** an encompassing term of many gender identities who do not identify or exclusively identify with their sex assigned at birth

**Transition:** a person's process of developing and assuming a gender expression to match their gender identity, which could involve social, medical and legal interventions

**Transphobia:** systemic violence against trans people, associated with attitudes such as a fear, discomfort, distrust or disdain

**Two Spirit:** an umbrella term indexing various indigenous gender identities in North America