



## LGBTQ TERMS

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**Androgyny** - person appearing and/or identifying as neither man nor woman, presenting a gender either mixed or neutral.

**Asexual** - person who is not sexually attracted to anyone.

**Bisexual** - a person emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to two genders.

**Butch** - a person who identifies themselves as masculine, whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally; sometimes used as a derogatory term for lesbians, but can also be claimed as an affirmative identity label.

**Cisgender** - describes someone who feels comfortable with the gender identity and gender expression expectations assigned at birth based on their physical sex.

**Cross-dresser** - someone who wears clothes of another gender/sex.

**Down Low / "In the Closet"** – refers to a homosexual, bisexual, transperson or intersex person who will not or cannot disclose their sex, sexuality, sexual orientation or gender identity to their friends, family, co-workers, or society. There are varying degrees of being "in the closet"; for example, a person can be out in their social life, but in the closet at work, or with their family.

**Drag** - the performance of one or multiple genders theatrically.

- **Drag King** - person who performs masculinity theatrically.
- **Drag Queen** - person who performs femininity theatrically.

**Dyke** - derogatory term referring to a masculine lesbian, may be an affirmative identity label for some lesbians.

**Fag/faggot** - derogatory term referring to someone perceived as non-heteronormative.

**Femininity** - a set of attributes, behaviors, and roles traditionally associated with girls and women.



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### **Gay**

- Term used in some cultural settings to represent males who are attracted to males in a romantic, erotic and/or emotional sense. Not all men who engage in “homosexual behavior” identify as gay.
- Term used to refer to the LGBTQI community as a whole, or as an individual identity label for anyone who does not identify as heterosexual.

**Gender Confirming Surgery** - medical surgeries used to modify one's body to be more congruent with one's gender identity.

- **Sexual Reassignment Surgery (SRS)** – sometimes used by medical professionals to refer to a group of surgical options that alter a person's “sex”. In most states, one or multiple surgeries are required to achieve legal recognition of gender variance.

**Gender Identity** - person's sense of being masculine, feminine, or other gendered.

**Gender Oppression** - the societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that privilege cisgender while subordinating and disparaging gender variant people.

**Gender Variant** - person who either by nature or by choice does not conform to gender-based expectations of society (e.g. transgender, transsexual, intersex, genderqueer, cross-dresser, etc.).

**Genderqueer** – gender variant person whose gender identity is neither male nor female, is between or beyond genders, or is some combination of genders.

**Heteronormativity** - assumption, in individuals or in institutions, that everyone is heterosexual, and that heterosexuality is superior to all sexualities and gender identities.

**Heterosexism** - prejudice against individuals and groups who display non-heterosexual behaviors or identities, combined with the majority power to impose such prejudice. Any attitude, action, or practice – backed by institutional power – that subordinates people because of their sexuality.

**Heterosexual Privilege** - benefits derived automatically by exemplifying heterosexual behaviors and patterns that are denied to other sexualities who do not conform to heterosexual beliefs and/or practices.



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**Homosexual** - person primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the same sex.

**Intersexed** - person whose combination of chromosomes, hormones, internal sex organs, gonads, and/or genitals differs from one of the expected societal patterns. Since standard medical practice is to "correct," ignorance about their status may lead an intersexed person be closeted.

- **Hermaphrodite** – derogatory term for an intersexed person.

**Lesbian** – an identity label used to describe female-identified people attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally to other female-identified people.

- **Lipstick lesbian** – a phrase that can be either derogatory or affirmative that refers to a lesbian with a feminine gender expression.

**LGBTQI** – an abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersexed community.

**Masculinity** - a set of attributes, behaviors, and roles generally associated with boys and men.

**Pangendered** – person whose gender identity is comprised of all or many gender expressions.

**Pansexual**– person who is sexually attracted to all or many gender expressions.

**Passing** – describes a person's ability to be accepted as their preferred gender/sex or race/ethnic identity.

**Polyamory** – refers to having non-possessive relationships with multiple partners; includes open relationships, *polyfidelity* (i.e., involves multiple romantic relationships with sexual contact restricted to those), and *subrelationships* (i.e., denotes distinguishing between a 'primary' relationship or relationships and various "secondary" relationships).



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### **Queer**

- An umbrella term which embraces a matrix of sexual preferences, orientations, and habits of non-exclusive heterosexual and/or monogamous behaviors and/or patterns.
- Sometimes refers to a sexual orientation label instead of 'bisexual' as a way of acknowledging that there are more than two genders to be attracted to, or as a way of stating a non-heterosexual orientation without having to state who they are attracted to.
- For decades 'queer, was used solely as a derogatory adjective for gays and lesbians, but in the 1980s the term began to be used by gay and lesbian activists as a term of self-identification.

**Sex** - a medical term designating a certain combination of gonads, chromosomes, external gender organs, secondary sex characteristics and hormonal balances; usually subdivided into 'male' and 'female' which excludes intersexed bodies.

**Sex Identity** - how a person physically identifies their sex.

**Sexual Orientation** - desire for intimate emotional and/or sexual relationships with other gender and/or sexes; usually excludes asexual identities because it assumes someone has a sexual desire.

**Sexuality** – a person's experience of sexual acts, sexual orientation, sexual pleasure, and/or desire; this also includes an individuals' experience of little to none sexual attraction and/or desire.

**Stealth** - term refers to when a person chooses to be secretive in public and/or private spaces about their gender history, either after transitioning or while successfully "passing."

**Stud** - an African-American and/or Latin@ masculine lesbian.

**Trans** - abbreviation that is sometimes used to refer to a gender variant person which gives the option to a person to state their identity without having to disclose hormonal or surgical status/intentions; term is sometimes used to refer to the gender variant community as a whole.

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**Transgender** - person who lives as a member of a gender other than that assigned or expected at birth based on physical sex.

- FTM/F2M - abbreviation for female-to-male transgender or transsexual person.
- MTF/M2F- abbreviation for male-to-female transgender or transsexual person.

**Transition** - term is primarily used to refer to the process a gender variant person undergoes when changing their bodily appearance either to be more congruent with the gender/sex that they self-identify with and/or to be in harmony with their preferred gender expression.

**Transsexual** - person who identifies psychologically as a gender/sex other than the one they were assigned at birth.

- **Transman** - label sometimes adopted by female-to-male transsexuals.
- **Transwoman** - label sometimes adopted by male-to-female transsexuals.

**Two-Spirited** - usually used in Indigenous communities to refer to individuals who are seen as a separate or third gender. They possess attributes of both genders, have distinct gender and social roles in their tribes, and are often involved with mystical rituals (shamans). Similar identity labels vary by tribe and include 'one-spirit' and 'wintke'.

- **Berdache** - term used in Indigenous communities to refer to a third gender person. The term 'berdache' is generally rejected as inappropriate and offensive by Indigenous peoples because it's a term that was assigned by European settlers to differently gendered peoples.

**Undocuqueer** – a term used by individuals in the undocumented community who also identify as queer.

**Ze/Hir** – pronouns that are gender neutral and preferred by some gender variant persons. Pronounced /zee/ and /here,/ they replace "he"/"she" and "his"/"hers" respectively.

### Sources:

- [LGBT Resource Center at UC Riverside](#)