

Rainbow Flag: San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker designed a flag for the city's 1978 Gay Freedom celebration. The flag symbolizes pride as well as diversity within unity.

Same Gender Loving: A term from the African American/Black LGBTQIA community and used by people of color who may see 'gay' and 'lesbian' as terms of the white LGBTQIA community.

Sex: A medical term designating a certain combination of gonads, chromosomes, external gender organs, secondary sex characteristics and hormonal balances. Sex is assigned at birth as male, female, or intersex by the medical establishment, usually based on genitals and sometimes chromosomes.

Sexual Orientation: The direction of one's sexual interest toward members of the same, opposite, both, or multiple genders. It is based on whom a person is emotionally, physically and sexually attracted to.

Sexuality: A person's exploration of sexual acts, sexual orientation, sexual pleasure, and desire.

SOGI / GRSM: Acronyms used in place of LGBT to be more inclusive of diverse identities (Sexual Orientation Gender Identity Minorities / Gender, Romantic, and Sexual Minorities)

Stonewall: On June 28, 1969, NYC police attempted a routine raid on the Stonewall Inn, a working class gay and lesbian bar in Greenwich Village. Unexpectedly the patrons resisted, and the incident escalated into a riot that continued for several days. Most people look to this event as the beginning of the American Gay Liberation movement and all subsequent LGBTQIA movements.

Trans*: This term has a similar meaning as transgender but the asterisk is meant to show a more inclusive attitude towards the multitude of people under the transgender umbrella.

Transgender: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity is not the same as the gender they were assigned at birth. "Transgender" can include transsexuals, cross dressers, trans men, trans women, genderqueers, non-binary people, and more.

Transition: Broadly defined this is the process trans* people may go through to become comfortable in terms

of their gender. Transitioning may include social, physical, mental, and emotional components and may not fit into the narrative we are used to seeing. Transition may or may not include things like changing one's name, taking hormones, having surgery, changing legal documents to reflect one's gender identity, coming out to loved ones, dressing as one chooses, and accepting oneself among many other things. Transitioning in an individual process.

Transphobia: The irrational fear of those who are trans*, gender non-conforming or those perceived as such due to the inability to deal with gender ambiguity.

Transsexual: This term often refers to binary trans* people (trans men and trans women), or to trans* people who physically transition in any way. While still a preferred term for many, some people dislike the term because of its connection to the medicalization of trans* people and the focus it can put on physical transition.

Two Spirit: A term specific to Native/First Nations cultures and people which some LGB, queer, pansexual, transgender, intersex, and gender non-conforming people identify as. This term should not be co-opted by non-Native/First Nations people.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Center

www.ohio.edu/lgbt

740-593-0239

354 Baker University Center



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

Queertionary: A Guide to LGBTQ Terminology

The definitions on this sheet provide a basic understanding of LGBT issues and concerns. The list is not exhaustive and provides a starting point for the deeper engagement of sexual orientation and gender. Everyday new terms are created and other words reclaimed as individuals and communities seek better ways to reflect their identities. You are encouraged to seek additional information for a better understanding of the many aspects of each term. Visit the LGBT Center office and/or website for additional resources.

Ally/Advocate: A person outside part or all of the LGBTQIA community, who supports LGBTQIA people. Someone who confronts heterosexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, heterosexual and cisgender privilege in themselves and others; has a concern for the well-being of LGBTQIA people; and a belief that heterosexism, homophobia, biphobia, monosexism, transphobia, and cissexism are social justice issues.

Asexual: A person who lacks sexual attraction to others and/or lacks interest in sex. Asexuality is distinct from abstention from sexual activity and celibacy, which are behavioral and generally motivated by factors such as an individual's personal or religious beliefs. Some asexual people may engage in sexual activity for various reasons including to please romantic partners.

Biphobia: The fear of, discrimination against, or hatred of bisexuals, which is oftentimes related to the current binary standard. Biphobia can be seen within the LGBTQIA community, as well as in general society.

Bisexual: A person who is emotionally, physically, spiritually, and sexually attracted to members of more than one gender. Some prefer less binary based terms such as **omnisexual** and **pansexual**.

Cisgender: The prefix 'Cis' is of Latin origin, meaning "on the same side as or of" therefore someone who is cisgender has a gender identity that is the same as the gender they were assigned at birth. Cisgender is the opposite of transgender/trans*. "Cisgender" is preferred

over terms like "biological", "genetic", or "real" male or female which set up cis people as the norm and trans* people as the inadequate other.

Cisgender Privilege: The privileges cisgender people have because their gender identities match their assigned gender and because they are considered "normal". For example, cisgender people don't have to worry about violence and institutionalized discrimination from being cis, or having to legitimize their gender identities to others.

Closeted/In the Closet: Refers to an LGBTQIA person who will not or cannot disclose their sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status to their friends, family, co-workers, or society. It can also refer to one who has come out to only a few people. 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.

Coming Out: The life-long process of discovering, defining, and proclaiming one's own sexual orientation, gender identity, or status as an intersex person to oneself, family, friends and others.

Drag: Taking on the appearance and characteristics associated with a certain gender, usually for entertainment purposes and often to expose the humorous and performative elements of gender. **Drag Queen**-a person who consciously performs femininity and/or womanhood. **Drag King**-a person who consciously performs masculinity and/or manhood.

Gay: Usually, but not always, refers to homosexual men. Used by some groups as an umbrella term for the LGBT community

Gender Binary: The pervasive social system that tells us there can only be masculine cisgender men and feminine cisgender women, and there can be no alternatives in terms of gender identity or expression.

Gender Expression: How one expresses their gender outwardly and/or the facets of a person's expression which have gendered connotations in our culture. There is no right or wrong way to express your gender.

Gender Identity: An individual's internal sense of their gender. One's gender identity may or may not align with

their assigned gender, and one's gender identity is not visible to others.

Gender nonconforming (GNC): Not fully conforming to gendered social expectations in terms of expression, roles or performance.

Gender: A complex combination of roles, expressions, identities, performances, and more that is assigned gendered meaning by a society. Gender is defined by both individuals and by society and how gender is embodied and understood varies from culture to culture and from person to person. Gender is more complex than a binary or even a simple spectrum.

Genderqueer: This term can be used as an umbrella term for all people who queer gender, as a similar term to gender nonconforming or as a specific non-binary gender identity.

Heteronormativity: The assumption, in individuals or in institutions, that everyone is heterosexual, and that heterosexuality is superior to all other sexual orientations such as gay, bisexual, pansexual, etc.

Heterosexism: The belief that all people are heterosexual, the assumption and/or belief that heterosexual relationships and behavior are superior, and the actions based on this assumption. Any attitude, action, or practice – backed by institutional power – that subordinates people because of their non-heterosexual sexual orientation.

Heterosexual: A man who has emotional, physical, spiritual, and sexual attractions to women or vice versa. This is also the sexuality that dominant discourse prescribes.

Homophobia: Fear, anger, discomfort, intolerance, or lack of acceptance toward LGBTQ people, homosexuality, or any behavior or belief that does not conform to rigid sex role stereotypes. The internalized version of this is having these feelings about one's own non-heterosexual orientation.

Homosexual: A person who has emotional, physical, spiritual, and sexual attraction to persons of the same gender. More of a medical term, it is considered outdated as it reduces individuals to a behavior.

Intersex: A person born with any manner of "ambiguity" in terms of gendered physical characteristics. This can include genitals, reproductive organs, hormones, chromo-

somes, or any combination thereof. Intersex is a more modern term that replaces the out of date term 'hermaphrodite'. Many intersex people believe that early childhood surgical intervention is not only unnecessary but cruel, and advocate counseling and support for children and families.

Lesbian: A woman who has emotional, physical, spiritual, and sexual attractions to other women.

LGBTQIA: An acronym which stands for 'lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual.' Some groups arrange the letters in different orders so as not to privilege one identity over another. A variation of this is **QUILT BAG** (the U stands for Unidentified).

Outing: The involuntary disclosure of one's sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status. It is also the political act of declaring a person's identity publicly without their permission/consent. Allies must take care not into inadvertently out someone.

Passing: When used by trans* people it can either mean that one is being read as the gender they identify as or that one is being read as cisgender. For example, a trans man who people read as a man, most likely a cis man.

Pink Triangle: This was a symbol used by the Nazi's to label gay men in concentration camps. It has since been adopted as a symbol of identity and pride.

Polyamory: Refers to having honest, usually non-possessive, relationships with multiple partners and can include: open relationships, polyfidelity (which involves multiple romantic relationships with sexual contact restricted to those), and sub-relationships (which denote distinguishing between a "primary" relationship or relationships and various "secondary" relationships).

Queer: Used as an umbrella identity term for individuals who do not strictly identify as heterosexual. "Queer" originated as a derogatory word. Currently, it is being reclaimed by some people and used as a statement of empowerment. Some people identify as "queer" to distance themselves from the rigid categorization of "straight" and "gay".

Questioning: The process of exploring one's own sexual and/or gender identity.