

LGBT Definitions

This list is not an all-inclusive list of terms related to LGBT communities. In addition, please be advised that the context and tone in which these terms are used could be perceived differently by various individuals.

Sexual Orientation	
Sexual Orientation	The type of sexual and/or physical attraction one feels for others, often labeled based on the gender relationship between the person and the people they are attracted to; often mistakenly referred to as sexual preference.
Gay	Refers to sexual and romantic desire between men. At times, this definition is used to refer to all LGBT people, regardless of gender. Lesbians, bisexuals, trans individuals, and otherwise queer people might feel excluded by this term.
Lesbian	Refers to sexual and romantic desire between women.
Asexual	Not experiencing sexual desire for others. This is different from celibacy, as celibacy is chosen while most believe that this term is not. Also, known as "ace."
Bisexual	A person who is attracted to two genders, but not necessarily simultaneously or equally.
Pansexual	Refers to sexual and romantic desire to all sexes and genders.
Same Gender Loving (SGL)	A term sometimes used by the Black community to express same-sex/gender attractions. An alternative to Eurocentric LGBT identities that do not culturally affirm the history of all queer communities.
Gender Identity and Expression	
Sex	A term that genders the body and biology/anatomy of individuals.
Assigned Sex	A designation given at birth or during prenatal development of male or female.
Gender	A social construct encompassing the ways bodies, expressions, identities, experiences, mannerism, dress, speech, etc. are interpreted, categorized, and policed
Femme	A feminine expression of gender, or an identification with femininity
Butch	A masculine expression of gender, or an identification with masculinity
Intersex	A medical construction to define bodies that don't fit neatly into the medical categories of male or female.
Misgender	To refer to someone, especially a transgender person, using a word, especially a pronoun or form of address, which does not correctly reflect the gender with which they identify.
Gender Non-Conforming	A person who either by nature or by choice does not conform to gender-based expectations of society.
Agender	A person without gender. An agender individual's body does not necessarily correspond with their lack of gender identity. Often, agender individuals are not concerned with their physical sex, but some may seek to look androgynous.
Gender Affirmation Surgery	A term used by medical professionals to refer to a group of surgical options that alters a person's sex.
Gender Binary	The division of gender into two distinct and opposite categories (man and woman). The gender binary is recognized as a social construct, as there are many identities in-between and outside these categories.
Transgender	An umbrella term for transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, non-binary, trans man, trans woman, transmasculine, transfeminine, etc. identities and expressions
Gender-Inclusive	Nondiscriminatory language usage that can apply equal to people of any gender identity.
Cisgender	One who identifies with the gender they were assigned at birth
Gender Identity	One's sense of their own gender; ex: man, woman, genderqueer, gender fabulous, etc.
Gender Roles	Societal norms regarding how males and females should behave, expecting people to have personality characteristics and/or act a certain way based on their biological sex.
Two-Spirit	The English umbrella term for a wide range of non-binary culturally recognized gender identities and expressions among Native American and First Nations peoples; culturally revered for their special qualities.

