

Common LGBTIQ+ Terminology

Asexual

This refers to a person who experiences no to limited sexual and romantic attraction to other people

Bisexual

This refers to a person who is romantically and sexually attracted to individuals of both binary genders (male/female).

Biphobia

The fear or intolerance of people who identify as bisexual, usually expressed through hostility, verbal and physical abuse, or discrimination. Biphobia also includes denying the existence of people who identify as bisexual.

Cisgender

This refers to a person whose gender identity, gender expression and behaviours align with their sex assigned at birth

Gay

This refers to someone who is romantically and sexually attracted to people of the same gender identity as themselves. It is usually used to refer to men who are attracted to other men but may also be used by women.

Gender diverse

This refers to people who do not identify as a woman or a man. In the same way that sexual orientation and gender expression are not binaries, gender identity is not a binary either. It is important to challenge our thinking beyond the binary constructs of male and female. Some people may identify as agender (having no gender), bigender (both a woman and a man) or non-binary (neither woman nor man). There is a diverse range of non-binary gender identities such as genderqueer, gender neutral, genderfluid and third gendered. It is important to be aware that language in this space is still evolving and people may have their own preferred gender identities that are not listed here.

Gender identity

Gender identity refers to a person's sense of being masculine or feminine, or both or neither. Gender identity does not necessarily relate to the sex a person is assigned at birth. Rather, a person's gender expression is made up of the outward signs they present to the world around them. This could include their choice of name and preferred pronoun (which may include using no pronoun), their style of dress and appearance, and/or their mannerisms.

Heterosexism

Views or behaviours that assume everyone is, or should be, heterosexual and that other types of sexuality or gender identity are unnatural or not as good as being heterosexual. People with differences in their physical sex characteristics may experience heterosexism too. This may include elements of discrimination based on limited ideas about what is 'normal' and 'not normal'.

Homophobia

The fear or intolerance of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or same sex attracted, usually linked with hostility, verbal and physical abuse, or discrimination. Homophobia also includes institutional and cultural bias and structural inequality.

Intersex

This refers to the diversity of physical characteristics between the stereotypical male and female characteristics. Intersex people have reproductive organs, chromosomes or other physical sex characteristics that are neither wholly female nor wholly male. Intersex is a description of biological diversity and may or may not be the identity used by an intersex person.

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Intersexism or Interphobia

The fear or intolerance of people living with an intersex variation, usually expressed through hostility, verbal and physical abuse, or discrimination.

Lesbian

This refers to a woman who is romantically and sexually attracted to other women.

Pansexual

Refers to those who experience romantic, emotion and sexual attractions to all people across the gender binary. Not to be confused with bisexual, which is only attraction to the binary male/female genders.

Same sex attracted

People who experience feelings of sexual and/or emotional attraction to others of the same sex. This term includes people who may identify in ways such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, pansexual or heterosexual, who are questioning their sexuality, or who are not wanting to label themselves. Some people prefer to use the term 'same gender attracted'.

Sex

Sex refers to a person's biological characteristics. A person's sex is usually described as either male or female. The designation of a person as either male or female on the basis of their biological characteristics takes into account their chromosomes, genitals, hormones and neurobiology. Some people have both male and female characteristics, or neither male nor female characteristics.

Sistergirls and Brotherboys

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may use these terms to refer to transgender people. Brotherboy typically refers to masculine spirited people who are born female, and Sistergirl typically refers to feminine spirited people who are born male.

Transgender (also trans or trans*)

This refers to a person whose gender identity, gender expression or behaviour does not align with their sex assigned at birth. In Australia, at birth children are assigned male or female. Male children are raised as boys and female children are raised as girls. A person classified as female at birth who identifies as a man may use the label trans, transman or man. Similarly, a person classified as male at birth who identifies as a woman may use the label trans, transwoman or woman.

Transphobia

Prejudice or discrimination based on a person being, or perceived as being, transgender or gender diverse. Transphobia can be expressed through hostility, verbal and physical bullying or discrimination. Transphobia also includes institutional and cultural bias and structural inequality.

Queer

Umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities who are not heterosexual and/or not cisgender

Questioning

Those who are exploring, unsure or concerned about their sexual identity, sexual orientation and gender.

