

Queer

Umbrella term for LGBTQ people, or a simple label to explain a complex set of sexual behaviors and desires; formerly a slur that is considered "reclaimed"

Trans*

An umbrella term to refer to many identities along the gender identity spectrum; people who identify this way are sure they are not cisgender; may be agender, two-spirit, gender-queer, and more

Agender

A term to describe an individual who identifies as having no gender; interchangeable with gender neutral

Genderqueer

Person who plays with, or redefines, gender, or who refuses gender altogether; people who bend/break the "rules" of gender and blur boundaries

Cisgender

People whose assigned sex and gender are congruent by predominant cultural standards

Gender Identity

A person's sense of self as a man, a woman, a different gender, a combination of genders, or having no gender at all, regardless of external genitalia; there is a difference between this and gender expression

Gender

A complex system of roles, expressions, identities, performances, and more than are given a gendered meaning by society and usually assigned to people based on the appearances of their sex characteristics at birth; how gender is embodied and defines varies from culture to culture and person to person

LGBTQ

A common abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning people; used as an umbrella term when talking about non heterosexual and non-cisgender identities, and does not always reflect members of the community

Asexual

Used to describe someone who is not sexually attracted to others; this is on a continuum

Gay

Men attracted to men, or an umbrella term (colloquially) for the LGBTQ community

Bisexual

A person who is attracted to two genders/sexes, not necessarily simultaneously or equally

Lesbian

A woman attracted to women

Sexual Orientation

The desire for intimate emotional and/or sexual relationships with people of the same gender/sex, another gender/sex, or multiple genders/sexes; this is on a continuum and may change over time

Pansexual

A person who has the potential to experience sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions

Drag

The act of dressing in gendered clothing as part of performance; this is not necessarily indicative of sexuality, gender, or any other identity

Ally

An individual who advocates for, and supports, members of a community other than their own; allies are active in their advocacy and support

Straight

A man or woman who is attracted to people of the other binary gender

Transsexual

A person who identifies as a member of a gender/sex other than the one to which they were assigned at birth; transsexuals often wish to transform their bodies hormonally and surgically to match their inner sense of gender/sex; not all people who medically transition identify as transsexual

Gender Expression

An expression of one's own gender identity including, but not limited to, personality traits, behaviors, appearance, mannerisms, interests, hobbies, and values

Sex

A medical term designating a certain combination of gonads, chromosomes, external sex organs, secondary sex characteristics and hormonal balances; because 'sex' is usually subdivided into 'male' and 'female,' this category often does not recognize the existence of intersex or transsexual bodies