

## **Basic LGBTQ2S+ Acronym Definitions**



**Lesbian** – a woman who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to other women.

**Gay** – a man who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to or involved with other men. Gay is also sometimes used as an umbrella term to refer to the lesbian, gay, bisexual + community.

**Bisexual** – a person who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to “both”/all genders. “Both” appears in quotation marks to reference the root of bi as meaning two, but also to acknowledge that there are more than two genders.

**Transgender** – a person whose gender identity is different from the gender and sex they were assigned at birth. For example, a transgender woman is typically a person who was assigned male at birth, but now lives and identifies as a woman. Transgender can also be used as an umbrella term to refer to multiple identities including but not limited to: genderqueer, agender, or non-binary.

**Queer** – as an identity refers to a person who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to people of all gender identities. Queer can also be used as an umbrella term to refer to the LGBTQ2S+ community. Historically the word queer has been an insult, however some people have reclaimed the word, while some are still opposed or uncomfortable with using it.

**2-Spirit /Two Spirit** – an Indigenous person who identifies as part of the LGBTQ2S+ community. Within many traditions 2-Spirit people were often healers, visionaries, and medicine people within Indigenous communities. Due to colonization 2-spirit people and teachings have been lost or hidden, and many 2-spirit people experience homophobia and transphobia in their own communities.

**+** = the plus sign is intended to represent and acknowledge other identities not explicitly listed in the acronym