

2SLGBTQ+ Terminology

ALLY

A member of a dominant group who acts to intervene and end discrimination

ASEXUAL

A word used to describe someone with no sexual attraction

BISEXUAL

A person whose physical, romantic and emotional attraction are to those of the opposite and same gender

CISGENDER

A person whose gender identity corresponds with the sex they were assigned at birth (e.g. a person who is biologically male and identifies as male/masculine or a person who is biologically female and identifies as female/feminine).

GAY

a word used to describe people whose enduring physical, romantic and/or emotional attractions are to people of the same gender.

Gender


refers to how a person feels - it is not biological. A person may feel or identify as female/feminine, male/masculine, or gender non-conforming. A person's gender may or may not match their biological sex (e.g. they may be biologically male, but feel female).

Genderqueer

A person who identifies outside of the gender binary (binary = idea that there are only two genders). They may use gender neutral pronouns such as ze, hir, hirs, they and them.

INTERSEX

A term used for people who are, biologically, neither "male" nor "female". An intersex person may have reproductive, sexual anatomy and/or hormones that do not fit the biological categories of "male" and "female."



LESBIAN

a woman whose physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction is to other women.

2SLGBTQ+

an acronym for Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Questioning, and more. This acronym is often used as an umbrella term to refer to a group of people whose gender and sexual identities share political and social concerns.

PANSEXUAL

a word that refers to people who are attracted to individuals regardless of their gender or gender expression. Pansexuality views gender as a social construct and rejects the gender binary of “male” and “female”.

SEX

biological, based on a person’s internal and external genitalia and hormones. A person’s sex can fall into the categories of female, male, or intersex.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Refers to who a person is physically and/or romantically attracted to.

Two-Spirit

a contemporary term that references historical multiple-gender traditions in many First Nations cultures. Many Native/First Nations people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender non-conforming identify as Two-Spirited.

TRANS

an umbrella term for people whose gender identity is different from their assigned sex at birth. The term includes but is not limited to trans man, trans woman, gender queer people, and gender nonconforming people.

Queer

an umbrella term used to refer to LGBTQ2S+ people. In the past, “queer” was used as a derogatory term, however many people have reclaimed it as a positive umbrella term for a range of gender and sexual identities.

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