

WHAT DO THE LETTERS LGBTQIA STAND FOR?!

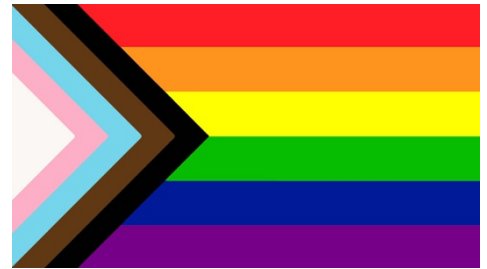
LESBIAN: Usually refers to a woman who has a romantic and/or sexual orientation toward women. Some nonbinary people also identify with this term.

GAY: Refers to people whose enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attractions are to people of the same sex. Often, it specifically refers to men with attraction to other men.

BISEXUAL: A person who has the capacity to form enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to those of the same gender or to those of another gender.

TRANSGENDER: A person whose sense of personal identity or gender does not correspond to the sex they were assigned at birth, or does not conform to gender stereotypes. Sexual orientation varies and is not dependent on gender identity.

QUEER: An adjective used by some people whose sexual orientation is not heterosexual. Once considered a pejorative term, queer has been reclaimed by many LGBTQ people to describe themselves; however, it is not a universally accepted term even within the LGBTQ community.



QUESTIONING: An individual who is unsure of and/or exploring their gender identity and/or sexual orientation.

INTERSEX: An umbrella term that describes people born with any of 30 different variations in sex characteristics including chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones, or genitals.

ASEXUAL: A person who experiences little or no sexual attraction to others and/or a lack of interest in sexual relationships. They may or may not experience emotional, physical, or romantic attraction. Asexuality differs from celibacy in that it is a sexual orientation, not a choice. People who are asexual may call themselves "ace."

AROMANTIC: A person who experiences little or no romantic attraction to others and/or has a lack of interest in romantic relationships.

PANSEXUAL: A person who experiences sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction for members of all gender identities and expressions.

NON-BINARY: A person whose gender identity does not fall within the binary genders of man or woman.

GENDERFLUID: A person who does not identify with the gender binary and move within genders and gender stereotypes.

GENDERQUEER: A person who does not identify or express their gender within the gender binary. Those who identify as genderqueer may identify as neither men nor women, may see themselves as outside of or in between the gender binary, or may simply feel restricted by gender labels.

CISGENDER: A person whose sense of personal identity or gender does correspond to the sex they were assigned at birth.

ALLY: Someone who confronts heterosexism, anti-LGBTQIA+ biases, heterosexual and cisgender privilege in themselves and others; believes that heterosexism, homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are social justice issues.

PRONOUNS

Using the right pronouns is a way of showing respect and acknowledging someone's identity. Pronouns are a major part of someone's identity.

You wouldn't want someone referring to you by the wrong name, especially after you've corrected them. Making an effort to get someone's pronouns right and referring to people the way they want to be identified is honoring the human dignity of the person.

It can take some practice to get used to using the right pronouns, so don't stress if you slip up at first. Just apologize and move on.



* Partially adapted from www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms