

Who are we?

Understanding LGBTQ2IA+ Identities

LGBTQ2IA+ Terminology

L Lesbian

To identify as a woman and be attracted to people of the same gender.

G Gay

To identify as a man and be attracted to people of the same gender.

Also used as an umbrella term for non-heterosexual attraction.

B Bisexual

To identify as attracted to both men and women.

Or to identify as attracted to one's own gender and other genders.

T Transgender

A person whose gender identity does not correspond with the sex assigned to them at birth.

Q Queer

Originally a slur, the term Queer has been rebranded as an umbrella term for those who resist conventional expectations of gender and sexuality. The term can be used to describe anyone in the LGBTQ2IA+ community.

2 2 Spirit

Originating in the US and Canada, Two-spirit is a term coined by Indigenous people to describe unique sexual, gendered and/ or spiritual identities. Many Indigenous people identify as having both masculine and feminine spirits, or a mixture of masculine and feminine energies in their bodies.

I Intersex

Refers to a person who is born with variations in physical and physiological sex characteristics that do not fit into the normative medical definitions of male and female.

A Asexual

Describes people who do not experience sexual attraction to others, or desire for sexual activity.

+ Plus symbol

Represents those terms or identities that are part of the LGBTQ2IA community but are not included in the acronym.

Aboriginal Gender Identities

Sistagirl

A culturally specific term describing an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who identifies as being a woman and/or having feminine spirit, energies or qualities. Most commonly used to describe Aboriginal transgender women.

Brothaboy

A culturally specific term describing an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who identifies as being a man or having masculine spirit, energies and/or qualities. Most commonly used to describe Aboriginal transgender men.

Gee Dee

Refers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are gender diverse and identify outside Western gender binaries.

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people identify with words in their own languages.



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More + Identities

Agender

Refers to a person with no connection to the gender binary. Someone with no personal alignment to the concepts of man or woman. Also known as gender neutral.

Ally

Those typically straight and cisgender people who support and respect all members of the LGBTQ2IA+ community.

Cisgender ("cis")

When a person's sex assigned at birth matches their gender identity.

Demisexual

Refers to a person who experiences little to no sexual attraction until a strong romantic connection is formed.

F2M/FtM

Female to Male trans/transgender person, A person who identifies as transitioning or having transitioned from one binary gender to another.

M2F/MtF

Male to female trans/transgender person, A person who identifies as transitioning or having transitioned from one binary gender to another.

Gender fluid

This identity describes a dynamic mix of male and female. A person who is gender fluid may move between many gender identities.

Pansexual

A person who experiences attraction for all gender identities and expressions.

Additional Useful Terms

Gender Binary

The idea that there are only two genders (man & woman) and that every person falls into either category.

Gender Dysphoria

The experience of conflict or distress resulting from sex assignment at birth for people who identify with a gender other than the one they were assigned. Some people may also experience this in relation to their body or social perceptions of their body.

Cisnormativity

The default assumption that everyone identifies with the sex they were assigned at birth and that it is safe to assume a person's gender from their appearance.

Heteronormativity

The default assumption that everyone present is heterosexual and that heterosexuality is the most 'natural' or 'normal' sexuality.

Homosexuality

A person attracted to members of the same-sex/ gender. Another word for the terms gay and lesbian. Historically, the term holds negative connotations as this was categorised as a 'mental illness'.