

Vocabulary Extravaganza

Advocate - (noun) (1) a person who actively works to end intolerance, educate others, and support social equity for a marginalized group, (verb) (2) to actively support/plea in favor of a particular cause, the action of working to end intolerance, educate others, etc.

Ally - (noun) a straight identified person who supports, and respects for members of the LGBTQ community

Androgynous - (adj) (1) a gender expression that has elements of both masculinity and femininity; (2) occasionally used in place of "intersex" to describe a person with both female and male anatomy

Androsexual/Androphilic - (adj) attraction to men, males, and/or masculinity

Aromantic - (adj) is a person who experiences little or no romantic attraction to others and/or a lack of interest in forming romantic relationships.

Asexual - (adj) having a lack of (or low level of) sexual attraction to others and/or a lack of interest or desire for sex or sexual partners

Bigender - (adj) a person who fluctuates between traditionally "woman" and "man" gender-based behavior and identities, identifying with both genders (and sometimes a third gender)

Bicurious - (adj) a curiosity about having attraction to people of the same gender/sex (similar to questioning)

Biological Sex - (noun) a medical term used to refer to the chromosomal, hormonal and anatomical characteristics that are used to classify an individual as female or male or intersex. Often abbreviated to simply "sex".

Biphobia - (noun) a range of negative attitudes (e.g., fear, anger, intolerance, resentment, or discomfort) that one may have/express towards bisexual individuals. Biphobia can come from and be seen within the queer community as well as straight society.. Biphobic (adj) a word used to describe an individual who harbors some elements of this range of negative attitudes towards bisexual people

Bisexual - (adj) a person emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to male/men and females/women. Other individuals may use this to indicate an attraction to individuals who identify outside of the gender binary as well and may use bisexual as a way to indicate an interest in more than one gender or sex. This attraction does not have to be equally split or indicate a level of interest that is the same across the genders or sexes an individual may be attracted to.

Butch - (noun & adj) a person who identifies themselves as masculine, whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally. 'Butch' is sometimes used as a derogatory term for lesbians, but is also be claimed as an affirmative identity label.

Cisgender - (adj) a person whose gender identity and biological sex assigned at birth align (e.g., man and male-assigned)

Cisnormativity - (noun) the assumption, in individuals or in institutions, that everyone is cisgender, and that cisgender identities are superior to trans* identities or people. Leads to invisibility of non-cisgender

Closeted - (adj) an individual who is not open to themselves or others about their (queer) sexuality or gender identity. This may be by choice and/or for other reasons such as fear for one's safety, peer or family rejection or disapproval and/or loss of housing, job, etc. Also known as being "in the closet." When someone chooses to break this silence they "come out" of the closet. (See coming out)

Coming Out - (1) the process by which one accepts and/or comes to identify one's own sexuality or gender identity (to "come out" to oneself). (2) The process by which one shares one's sexuality or gender identity with others (to "come out" to friends, etc.).

Cross-dresser - (noun) someone who wears clothes of another gender/sex.

Demi-sexual - (noun) an individual who does not experience sexual attraction unless they have formed a strong emotional connection with another individual. Often within a romantic relationship.

Drag King - (noun) someone who performs masculinity theatrically.

Drag Queen - (noun) someone who performs femininity theatrically.

Dyke - (noun) a term referring to a masculine presenting lesbian. While often used derogatorily, it can be adopted affirmatively by many lesbians (and not necessarily masculine ones) as a positive self-identity term

Fag(got) - (noun) derogatory term referring to a gay person, or someone perceived as queer. Occasionally used as a self-identifying affirming term by some gay men, at times in the shortened form 'fag'.

Femme - (noun & adj) someone who identifies themselves as feminine, whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally. Often used to refer to a feminine-presenting lesbian.

Fluid(ity) - generally with another term attached, like gender-fluid or fluid-sexuality, fluid(ity) describes an identity that is a fluctuating mix of the options available (e.g., man and woman, bi and straight)

FTM / F2M - abbreviation for female-to-male transgender or transsexual person.

Gay - (adj) (1) a term used to describe individuals who are primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the same sex and/or gender. More commonly used when referring to males/men who are attracted to males/men, but can be applied to females/women as well. (2) An umbrella term used to refer to the queer community as a whole, or as an individual identity label for anyone who does not identify as heterosexual.

Gender Binary - (noun) the idea that there are only two genders - male/female or man/woman and that a person must be strictly gendered as either/or.

Gender Expression - (noun) the external display of one's gender, through a combination of dress, demeanor, social behavior, and other factors, generally measured on scales of masculinity and femininity.

Gender Fluid - (adj) gender fluid is a gender identity best described as a dynamic mix of boy and girl. A person who is gender fluid may always feel like a mix of the two traditional genders, but may feel more man some days, and more woman other days.

Gender Identity - (noun) the internal perception of an one's gender, and how they label themselves, based on how much they align or don't align with what they understand their options for gender to be. Common identity terms include man, woman, genderqueer...

Gender Normative / Gender Straight - (adj) someone whose gender presentation, whether by nature or by choice, aligns with society's gender-based expectations

Genderqueer - (adj) is a catch-all term for gender identities other than man and woman, thus outside of the gender binary and cisnormativity (sometimes referred to as non-binary). People who identify as genderqueer may think of themselves as one or more of the following:

- both man and woman (bigender, pangender);
- neither man nor woman (genderless, agender);
- moving between genders (genderfluid);
- third gender or other-gendered; includes those who do not place a name to their gender
- having an overlap of, or blurred lines between, gender identity and sexual and romantic orientation.

Gender Variant - (adj) someone who either by nature or by choice does not conform to gender-based expectations of society (e.g. transgender, transsexual, intersex, gender-queer, cross-dresser, etc.).

Gynesexual/Gynephilic - (adj) attracted to woman, females, and/or femininity

Hermaphrodite - (noun) an outdated medical term previously used to refer someone who was born with both male and female biological characteristics; not used today as it is considered to be medically stigmatizing, and also misleading as it means a person who is 100% male and female, a biological impossibility for humans (preferred term is intersex)

Heteronormativity - (noun) the assumption, in individuals or in institutions, that everyone is heterosexual, and that heterosexuality is superior to all other sexualities. Leads to invisibility and stigmatizing of other sexualities. Often included in this concept is a level of gender normativity and gender roles, the assumption that individuals *should* identify as men and women, and be masculine men and feminine women, and finally that men and women are a complimentary pair.

Heterosexism - (noun) behavior that grants preferential treatment to heterosexual people, reinforces the idea that heterosexuality is somehow better or more "right" than queerness, or makes other sexualities invisible

Heterosexual - (adj) a person primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex. Also see straight.

Homophobia - (noun) an umbrella term for a range of negative attitudes (e.g., fear, anger, intolerance, resentment, or discomfort) that one may have towards members of LGBTQ community. The term can also connote a fear, disgust, or dislike of being perceived as LGBTQ.

Intersex - (adj) someone whose combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, internal sex organs, and genitals differs from the two expected patterns of male or female. Formerly known as hermaphrodite (or hermaphroditic), but these terms are now considered outdated and derogatory.

Lesbian - (noun) a term used to describe women attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally to other women.

Lipstick Lesbian - (noun) Usually refers to a lesbian with a feminine gender expression. Can be used in a positive or a derogatory way. Is sometimes also used to refer to a lesbian who is assumed to be (or passes for) straight.

Metrosexual - (noun & adj) a straight man with a strong aesthetic sense who spends more time, energy, or money on his appearance and grooming than is considered gender normative.

MTF/ M2F - abbreviation from male-to-female transgender or transsexual person.

Outing - (verb) involuntary or unwanted disclosure of another person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status.

Pansexual - (adj) a person who experiences sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions

Passing - (verb) (1) a term for trans* people being accepted as, or able to "pass for," a member of their self-identified gender/sex identity (regardless of birth sex). (2) An LGB/queer individual who can be believed to be or perceived as straight.

Polyamory - (noun) refers to having honest, usual non-possessive, relationships with multiple partners and can include: open relationships, polyfidelity (which involves multiple romantic relationships with sexual contact restricted to those), and sub-relationships (which denote distinguishing between a 'primary' relationship or relationships and various "secondary" relationships).

Queer - (adj) used as an umbrella term to describe individuals who identify as non-straight. Also used to describe people who have non-normative gender identity or as a political affiliation. Due to its historical use as a derogatory term, it is not embraced or used by all members of the LGBTQ community. The term queer can often be used interchangeably with LGBTQ.

Questioning (verb, adjective) - an individual who is unsure about or is exploring their own sexual orientation or gender identity.

Same Gender Loving / SGL - (adj) a term sometimes used by members of the African-American / Black community to express an alternative sexual orientation without relying on terms and symbols of European descent.

Sexual Orientation - (noun) the type of sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction one feels for others, often labeled based on the gender relationship between the person and the people they are attracted to (often mistakenly referred to as sexual preference)

Sexual Preference - (1) the types of sexual intercourse, stimulation, and gratification one likes to receive and participate in. (2) Generally when this term is used, it is being mistakenly interchanged with "sexual orientation," creating an illusion that one has a choice (or "preference") in who they are attracted to

Sex Reassignment Surgery / SRS - A term used by some medical professionals to refer to a group of surgical options that alter a person's biological sex. In most cases, one or multiple surgeries are required to achieve legal recognition of gender variance.

Skoliosexual - (adj) attracted to genderqueer and transsexual people and expressions (people who don't identify as cisgender)

Straight - (adj) a person primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex. A more colloquial term for the word heterosexual

Stud - (noun) an African-American and/of Latina masculine lesbian. Also known as 'butch' or 'aggressive'.

Top Surgery - (noun) this term refers to surgery for the construction of a male-type chest or breast augmentation for a female-type chest.

Trans* - (noun) an umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. Trans* people may identify with a particular descriptive term (e.g., transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, FTM).

Transgender - (1) An umbrella term covering a range of identities that transgress socially defined gender norms. (2) A person who lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on anatomical sex.

Transition(ing) - (noun & verb) this term is primarily used to refer to the process a trans* person undergoes when changing their bodily appearance either to be more congruent with the gender/sex they feel themselves to be and/or to be in harmony with their preferred gender expression.

Transman - (noun) An identity label sometimes adopted by female-to-male transgender people or transsexuals to signify that they are men while still affirming their history as females, (sometimes referred to as transguy)

Transphobia - (noun) the fear of, discrimination against, or hatred of trans* people, the trans* community, or gender ambiguity. Transphobia can be seen within the queer community, as well as in general society.

Transsexual - (noun & adj) a person who identifies psychologically as 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.

Transvestite - (noun) a person who dresses as the binary opposite gender expression ("cross-dresses") for any one of many reasons, including relaxation, fun, and sexual gratification (often called a "cross-dresser," and should not be confused with transsexual)

Transwoman - (noun) an identity label sometimes adopted by male-to-female transsexuals or transgender people to signify that they are women while still affirming their history as males.

Two-Spirit - (noun) is an umbrella term traditionally used by Native American people to recognize individuals who possess qualities or fulfill roles of both genders

Ze / **Hir** - alternate pronouns that are gender neutral and preferred by some trans* people. Pronounced /zee/ and /here/ they replace "he" and "she" and "his" and "hers" respectively. Alternatively some people who are not comfortable/do not embrace he/she use the plural pronoun "they/ their" as a gender neutral singular pronoun.