

Glossary of Terms

- **Ally** | A person who shows support for LGBTQ+ people and promotes equality in a variety of ways.
- **Androgynous** | Identifying and/or presenting as neither distinguishably masculine nor feminine.
- **Asexual** | The lack of a sexual attraction or desire for other people.
- **Bisexual** | A person emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one sex, gender or gender identity though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.
- **Cisgender** | A term used to describe a person whose gender identity aligns with those typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth.
- **Closeted** | Describes an LGBTQ+ person who has not disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **Gay** | A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same gender.
- **Gender expression** | External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, haircut or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.
- **Gender identity** | One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.
- **Gender non-conforming** | A broad term referring to people who do not behave in a way that conforms to the traditional expectations of their gender, or whose gender expression does not fit neatly into a category.
- **Gender transition** | The process by which some people strive to more closely align their internal knowledge of gender with its outward appearance. Some people socially transition, whereby they might begin dressing, using names and pronouns and/or be socially recognized as another gender. Others undergo physical transitions in which they modify their bodies through medical interventions.
- **Intersex** | Is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that is not the typical definitions of female or male.
- **Lesbian** | A woman who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to other women.
- **LGBTQ** | An acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer."
- **Living openly** | A state in which LGBTQ+ people are comfortably out about their sexual orientation or gender identity – where and when it feels appropriate to them.
- **Outing** | Exposing someone's lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender identity to others without their permission. Outing someone can have serious repercussions on employment, economic stability, personal safety or religious or family situations.
- **Queer** | A term people often use to express fluid identities and orientations. Often used interchangeably with "LGBTQ."
- **Questioning** | A term used to describe people who are in the process of exploring their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **Sexual orientation** | An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people.
- **Transgender** | An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.



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