

# A Brief Glossary

LGBT community language is as rich and nuanced as its community members. Here is a brief list of common terms currently in use. This list is by no means exhaustive and we encourage all people to engage with their local community in order to appreciate local and cultural variations.

## **Ace**

An umbrella term to include variations in an absence of sexual or romantic interest, including the experiences of asexual, aromantic, demi-sexual, demiromantics and grey-As.

## **Agender**

A lived experience that does not relate to gender.

## **Ally**

A person who supports and advocates for LGBT people.

## **Assigned Female at Birth (AFAB)**

Any person who's sex assignment at birth resulted in a declaration of "female".

## **Assigned Male at Birth (AMAB)**

Any person who's sex assignment at birth resulted in a declaration of "male".

## **Biphobia**

Prejudice, discrimination, fear or dislike towards someone that is bisexual based on their identity.

## **Bisexual**

An individual who is attracted to more than one gender. One should not assume this is always an equally weighted attraction to different genders.

## **Cisgender**

A person whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth.

## **Deadname**

A trans person's previous or birth name. It is considered offensive to use this name. 'Deadname' can be used as a noun and a verb.

## **Demisexual**

A person who only experiences sexual attraction once they have an emotional bond with a person.

## **Enby**

Colloquialism for non-binary.

## **FTM / MTF**

Referring to Female-to-Male / Male-to-Female transition.

## **Gay / Homosexual**

A general label for same sex attraction. Most commonly used with men who are exclusively or preferentially attracted to other men in an emotional, sexual and/or physical manner.

## **Gender**

A social construct informed by the norms, roles and behaviours that we attribute to being masculine, feminine or third gender.

## **Gender Confirmation / Affirmation**

Replacing the term 'Gender Reassignment'.

## **Gender Dysphoria**

The discomfort felt between one's gender and their sex assigned at birth. This may be mental, physical or social.

## **Gender Fluid**

A form of gender and expression that is not fixed.

## **Gender Identity**

An individual's personal sense of having a particular gender.

## **Heterosexism / Heteronormative Assumptions**

A system of attitudes or beliefs that assumes or favours opposite sex relationships and attraction.

## **Heterosexual**

A person who is romantically or sexually attracted to someone of a different gender.

## **Homophobia**

Prejudice, discrimination, fear or dislike towards someone that is homosexual based on their identity.

## **Intersectionality**

Theory introduced by Prof. Kimberlé Crenshaw to describe how multiple facets of a person's identity can combine to make unique forms of oppression and discrimination.

## **Intersex**

A general term used for a variety of instances in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual characteristics that do not fit the typical definitions of female or male. They may express their gender as male, female or non-binary. Clinically known as Variations of Sex Characteristics (VSC).

## **Lesbian**

A woman who is exclusively or preferentially attracted to other women in an emotional, sexual and/or physical manner.

## **LGBT**

Initialisation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender. Used to refer to the broader sexual and gender minority community.

## **LGBTQIA+**

A variant of LGBT that includes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and others.

## **LGBT-phobia**

Prejudice, discrimination, fear or dislike towards someone that is LGBT based on their identity.

## **Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)**

A term for any man who has sex with men to include homosexual, bisexual, pansexual and those who do not identify as being LGBT.

## **Non-Binary**

A term for people who do not identify with the discrete categories of male and female. This term includes a variety of gender expressions.

## **Outing Someone**

Identifying someone as LGBT without their consent. This is considered extremely harmful as there may be social factors or issues of safety involved in a person's choice to be discreet.

## **Pansexual**

A person whose attraction to others is not constrained by sex or gender.

## **Pronoun**

A word that takes the place of a noun in a sentence. The most common third-person pronouns we encounter are he, she and they. Correct pronoun use corresponding to a person's gender is important.

## **Queer**

An umbrella term for LGBT people. Also refers to a mode of critical theory and political discourse. It is a reclamation of a slur.

## **Sex**

The underlying biological profile of a person. It influences a range of bodily responses that are important in tackling infection or disease.

## **Sexual Orientation**

A person's sexual feelings towards certain genders. Activity does not equate orientation as some people will have same-gender sexual activity for various reasons and not classify themselves as LGB+.

## **Sexuality**

A term referring to someone's sexual attractions, behaviours, kinks and desires. Sexuality is a term broader than sexual orientation to encompass a sense of what a person enjoys and with whom.

## **Stealth**

Community term describing the ability to live as your gender without disclosing your transition.

## **Third Gender**

A distinct form of gender from that of male or female. Often culturally informed with a rich history such as the Hijra, Māhū, Fa'afafine, Two-Spirit and Muxe.

## **Top Surgery**

Common term for bilateral mastectomy and male chest reconstruction.

## **Trans(gender) Man**

A man who was assigned female at birth.

## **Trans(gender) Woman**

A woman who was assigned male at birth.

## **Transfeminine**

A person who was assigned male at birth but whose gender identity is more female than male.

## **Transgender**

An umbrella term for a person whose gender identity differs from the one they were assigned at birth.

## **Transmasculine**

A person who was assigned female at birth but whose gender identity is more male than female.

## **Transphobia**

Prejudice, discrimination, fear or dislike towards someone that is transgender based on their identity.

## **Women who have sex with Women (WSW)**

A term for any woman who has sex with women to include homosexual, bisexual, pansexual and those who do not identify as being LGBT.