

Muskingum University LGBTQ+ Glossary

Advocate- A person who is **heterosexual** and works and campaigns for the rights of people who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Ally - 1. Someone who actively confronts heterosexism, anti- LGBTQ+ biases, heterosexual and cisgender privilege in themselves and others 2. Has concern for the wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and other similarly identified people 3. Believes that heterosexism, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia are social justice issues.

Androgynous- Identifying and/or presenting as neither distinguishably masculine nor feminine.

Agender - A person without gender. An agender individual's body does not necessarily correspond with their lack of gender identity. Often, agender individuals are not concerned with their physical sex, but some may seek to look androgynous.

Androgyne – Person appearing and/or identifying as neither man nor woman.

Asexual- The lack of sexual attraction or desire for other people.

Assigned at Birth - Utilized by transgender individuals, the term illustrates that the individual's sex and gender was assumed based on visible physical sex characteristics, and legally designated (assigned) at the moment of birth. Commonly seen as "Female Assigned At Birth" (FAAB) or "Assigned Female at Birth" (AFAB) and "Male Assigned At Birth" (MAAB) "Assigned Male at Birth" (AMAB).

Bicurious - A person who identifies as gay or straight while showing some curiosity for sexual engagement or a relationship with a person of a sex/gender they do not usually engage with.

Bigender – A person whose gender identity is a combination of or alternation between two genders.

Biphobia - Negative attitudes toward and/or unfair treatment of bisexual people. Biphobia can be seen within the LGBTQ+ community, as well as in general society.

Bisexual – A person who recognizes they could be sexually, romantically, or physically attracted to either males or females. Indicates an orientation (a way of thinking and feeling), not necessarily a history of lived sexual experiences.

Bottom Surgery - Surgery on the genitals designed to create a body in harmony with a person's gender identity to reduce dysphoria. [Related Terms: Gender Confirming Surgery, Sexual Reassignment Surgery, Lower Surgery]

Cisgender – A person comfortable with the gender identity assigned to them based on their physical sex. Implies congruence between one's sex and gender.

Coming Out - 1. The process of accepting one's own sex, gender, and/or sexual identities (to

"come out" to oneself). 2. The process of sharing one's sex, gender, and sexual identity status with others (to "come out" to friends, etc.). 3. A life-long process for individuals in the LGBTQ+ community.

Domestic Partner - One who lives with their beloved and/or is emotionally and financially connected in a supportive manner with another; May be shortened to "partner."

Drag - The theatrical performance of gender(s). Culturally specific noting that gender indicators differ throughout the world.

Drag King - A culturally specific theatrical performance of "masculinity," presenting an exaggerated form of masculine expression, often times done by a woman.

Drag Queen - A culturally specific theatrical performance of "femininity," presenting an exaggerated form of feminine expression, often times done by a man.

Dyke -1. Derogatory term referring to (often masculine) lesbians. 2. Sometimes adopted affirmatively by lesbians (not necessarily masculine ones) to refer to themselves.

Fag (Faggot) -Derogatory term for a gay or effeminate man. 2. Derogatory term for a male who falls short of culturally specific expectations of masculinity as defined by others. 3. Sometimes reclaimed by gay men as a self-identifier.

Family - Colloquial term used to identify other LGBTQ+ community members.

Family of Choice - Persons or a group of people an individual sees as supportive and significant in one's own life. May include members of their own family of origin, significant others, domestic partners, friends, and/or coworkers.

FTM/MTF- (Female To Male/Male To Female) 1. A person assigned one sex (Male or Female) at birth now living as the other sex (Female or Male). 2. A person who has undergone medical treatments to change their sex characteristics to align with their gender identity. A form of being transgender.

Gay - 1.Used in some cultural settings to label men who are exclusively or primarily attracted to other men in a romantic, erotic and/or emotional sense. 2. General term for gay men and lesbians.

Gender - 1. A complex system of roles, expressions, identities, performances, given categorical meaning by a society and usually assigned to people based on the appearance of their physical sex characteristics at birth. Gender varies from culture to culture and from person to person.

Gender Binary – 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 Confirming Surgery – Medical surgeries used to modify one's body to be more congruent with one's gender identity. Also known as 'Sex Reassignment Surgery,' 'Gender Reassignment Surgery.' [See also: Top Surgery, Bottom Surgery].

Gender Dysphoria (GD) - Discomfort or distress caused the persistent feeling that one's gender is inconsistent with one's sex as assigned at birth.

Gender Expression - The way one presents themselves and their gender in society via dress, mannerisms, hairstyle, facial hair etc. Gender expression may not match one's gender identity.

Gender Identity - A person's sense of self as a man, a woman, a combination of genders, or absence of gender, regardless of physical genitalia.

Gender Non-Conforming - A person who either by nature or by choice does not conform to gender based social expectations (e.g. transgender, intersex, genderqueer, etc.). Also known as 'Gender Variant.'

Gender Normative – A person who by nature or by choice conforms to gender based expectations of society.

Genderqueer - An individual whose gender identity is neither male nor female, or is some combination of genders. May include a political agenda to challenge gender stereotypes and the gender binary concept.

Heteronormativity – The assumption, in individuals or in social institutions and systems, that everyone is heterosexual, and that heterosexuality is superior to homosexuality, bisexuality, and other sexual orientations.

Heterosexual – To be primarily or exclusively attracted to those of the other binary gender or sex than oneself. Also known as 'straight.'

Homophobia - The negative attitude toward and/or unfair treatment of people who identify or are perceived of as nonheterosexuality, including the fear of being assumed a part of the LGBTQ+ community. Homophobic behavior can range from telling gay jokes, to verbal abuse, to acts of physical violence and discrimination.

Homosexual - To be primarily or exclusively attracted to those of the same binary gender or sex as oneself. Considered an offensive/stigmatizing term by many members of the queer community. [See: Gay, Lesbian, Queer].

Intersex - Individual(s) born with the condition of having physical sex markers (genitals, hormones, gonads, or chromosomes) that are neither clearly male nor female. Intersex people are sometimes defined as having "ambiguous" genitalia. An intersex person may be closeted due to ignorance about their own medical status. Medical treatment often attempts to "correct," intersex conditions early in childhood and to hide the medical history from the patient.

In the Closet (Closeted) - Refers to a person who will not or cannot disclose their sex, sexuality, sexual orientation or gender identity to others. Varying degrees of being "in the closet" exist. A person may be out in their social life, but closeted at work, or with family.

Lesbian - Term used to describe women who are exclusively or primarily attracted to other women in a romantic, erotic, and/or emotional sense.

LGBTQ(IA+) - A common abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and/or

Questioning people. The acronym is used as an umbrella term when talking about non heterosexual, non-cisgender identities. The acronym may be expanded to include IA+ to represent Intersex individuals, Allies and/or Asexual people. The + is intended to express inclusivity of all other gender and sexual variant people.

Lipstick Lesbian - A lesbian with a feminine gender expression. Can be positive or derogatory depending on who is using it. Sometimes used to refer to a lesbian who passes as heterosexual.

Oppression - The systematic subjugation of a group of people by another group with access to social power, the result of which benefits one group over the other and is maintained by social beliefs and codified practices.

Outing - Disclosure of information about another's sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics, generally without their knowledge and/or consent.

Pansexual – A person who experiences the potential to experience sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions.

Polyamory - Refers to having consensual, non-monogamous sexual relationships with multiple partners. May include: open relationships, or polyfidelity (sexual contact restricted to those within the group).

Prejudice – A conscious or unconscious negative belief about a whole group of people and its individual members. Anyone can be prejudiced toward another individual or group.

Queer - 1. An umbrella term which includes lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans* people, intersex persons, radical sex communities, and many other sexually transgressive communities. 2. This term is sometimes used as a sexual orientation label or gender identity label used to denote a non-heterosexual or cisgender identity without having to define specifics. 3. A reclaimed word that was formerly used solely as a slur but that has been reclaimed by some folks in the LGBTQ community. Nevertheless, a sizable percentage of people to whom this term might apply still hold 'queer' to be a hateful insult, and its use by heterosexual people is often considered offensive.

Queerplatonic – Refers to a relationship that has the sort of intensity, closeness, and emotional connection expected of a romantic relationship, but is not romantic. Often abbreviated to QP, with QPR meaning a QP relationship and QPP standing for QP partner. People who are uncomfortable using the term "queer" use Quasiplatonic instead to refer to the same type of relationship.

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

Sexuality - Refers to a person's exploration of sexual behaviors, practices and identities in the social world.

Straight - A man or woman who is attracted to people of the other binary gender.

Sex - A medical term designating a certain combination of gonads, chromosomes, external

gender organs, secondary sex characteristics and hormonal balances. Because 'sex' is usually subdivided into 'male' and 'female,' this category often does not recognize the existence of intersex or transsexual bodies.

Sex Identity - How a person identifies physically: female, male, in between, or neither.

Sexual Orientation - The desire for intimate emotional and/or sexual relationships with people of the same gender/sex, another gender/sex, or multiple genders/sexes.

Sexual Reassignment Surgery (SRS) - A term used by some medical professionals to refer to a group of surgical options that alter a person's sex characteristics. In most states, one or multiple surgeries are required to achieve legal recognition of gender status. Also known as Gender Confirming Surgery.

Stereotype - A preconceived or oversimplified generalization about an entire group of people without regard for their individual differences. Some stereotypes can be positive. However, they can have a negative impact, simply because they involve broad generalizations.

Top Surgery - Refers to surgery for the construction of a male-type chest through voluntary mastectomy, but may also refer to breast augmentation.

Trans* - An abbreviation that is used to refer to a transgender/gender queer/ gender non-conforming person. This use allows a person to state a gender variant identity without having to disclose hormonal or surgical status/intentions. This term is sometimes used to refer to the whole gender non-conforming community including (but not limited to) transgender, genderqueer, gender fluid, non-binary, transsexual, agender, third gender, two-spirit, bigender, trans man, trans woman, gender non-conforming, trans masculine, trans feminine, and gender questioning.

Transgender - One who identifies with a gender other than the gender they were assigned at birth.

Transition - Refers to the processes a transgender or gender variant person undergoes when changing their bodily appearance (via hormone replacement therapy, surgery, or other medical procedures), gender expression, and/or documentation to be more congruent with the gender/sex with which they identify.

Trans Man - A man who was assigned female at birth. Signifies that he is a man while still affirming his transgender history.

Transphobia - Negative attitudes toward and unfair treatment of those who are transgender or gender non-conforming. Transphobic behavior can range from ridiculing trans* people, to verbal abuse, to acts of physical violence, including murder.

Transsexual - An older term now replaced by “transgender” to describe persons who identify as a member of 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 [See 'Transition']. Not all people who medically transition identify as

transsexual, and as such this label should be used with caution.

Transvestite - A dated term for people of a wide variety of identities who dressed in clothing that didn't conform to the gender based expectations of society. People once referred to as "transvestites" might today identify as transgender, gender non-conforming, or cross-dressers.

Trans Woman - A woman who was assigned male at birth. Signifies that she is a woman while still affirming her transgender history.

Resources:

All terms and definitions were compiled from the following resources.

- Human Rights Campaign
 - <https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>
- LBGT Resource Center at Michigan State University
 - <http://lbgtrc.msu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Glossary-of-LGBTQIA-Terms.pdf>
- Unhushed.org (Karen Rayne, PhD. and Jessica Smarr, MPH)
 - <https://unhushed.org/index/home.php>