

SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY GLOSSARY

Asexual – A sexual orientation generally characterized by not feeling sexual attraction or a desire for partnered sexuality. Asexuality is distinct from celibacy, which is the deliberate abstention from sexual activity. Some asexual people do have sex. There are many diverse ways of being asexual.

Bisexual – A person whose primary sexual and affectional orientation is toward people of the same and other genders, or toward people regardless of their gender.

Gay – A sexual and affectional orientation toward people of the same gender.

Genderqueer – A person whose gender identity and/or gender expression falls outside of the dominant social norm for their assigned sex, is beyond genders, or is some combination of them.

Heterosexual/Straight – A sexual orientation in which a person feels physically and affectional attracted to people of a gender other than their own.

Lesbian – A woman whose primary sexual and affectional orientation is toward people of the same gender.

Nonbinary – An umbrella term for genders other than woman or man, including genders with aspects of both or neither. Nonbinary people may identify as agender, genderqueer, gender fluid, Two Spirit, bigender, pangender, gender nonconforming or gender variant.

Pansexual – A sexual and/or affectional orientation is toward people of all genders.

Queer – A person whose sexual orientation and/or gender identity is outside of heterosexuality or cisgender identities, without having to define specifics.

Questioning – A person who is unsure of and/or exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Trans Man – A person who was assigned female at birth, but whose gender identity is that of a man. A man of Trans experience.

Trans Woman – A person who was assigned male at birth, but whose gender identity is that of a woman. A woman of Trans experience