

# Glossary of Sex, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Terms

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sex - biological sex</li> </ul>	Female	Male
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender (expression)- Social role and presentation; whether one looks and behaves according to cultural norms for women, or for men.</li> </ul>	Looks, acts "like a Woman"	Looks, acts "like a Man"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender Identity/Psychological Gender. The gender one feels oneself to be, usually either as a man or woman.</li> </ul>	Identifies as Woman	Identifies as Man

Remember: Bias Laws pertain to acts motivated by **actual or perceived** traits

- Sexual Orientation** refers to the sex of the person(s) to whom one is romantically/sexually attracted, relative to one's own sex. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Heterosexual/Straight are considered respectful terms to be used for general or public audiences. (Other terms are sometimes preferred within LGBTI community; see below.)
- Transgender** refers to any individual whose gender or gender identity is not the one usually associated with their biological sex. For example, a male who crossdresses and crossbehaves or who feels, inside, that (s)he is really a woman. Etiquette: Use pronoun associated with presented or preferred gender. This includes:
  - **Transsexuals**, whose gender identity is inconsistent with their sex. These individuals might seek sex reassignment surgery (SRS).
  - **Transgenders** who live as the other gender but do not want to change sex.
  - **Crossgenders, gender blenders, crossdressers, transvestites**, etc (CDs, TVs). People who blend masculine & feminine traits to create their own self-expressive genders.
  - Does *not* include people who simply prefer not to conform to cultural norms for their own sex/gender; refers to people who are intentionally *crossing* gender lines (compare "gender variant").
- Gender Variant** – Anyone whose gender expression does not conform to stereotypical expectations for persons of their sex, to any degree; does not imply transgender identity.
- Intersex** - Born with some male, and some female, sex organs. If identified at birth, often treated hormonally & surgically. Some intersexed individuals feel these treatments are unethical. Preferable to the clinical synonym, "Hermaphrodite," which is considered offensive because of its association with clinical "correction" of intersex conditions. Estimates are that 2-5% of the population is intersex to some degree. Ex: androgen insensitivity.
- Queer**. Formerly pejorative, and still considered an insult by many (especially older generations), this word has been reclaimed by LGBTI and is used to refer to anyone who crosses traditional sex or gender lines, i.e., the entire LGBTI community. Used in this way by LGBTI, the word implies unity and pride among LGBTI. Generally not considered a term of respect when used by non-LGBTI.
- Homosexual**. Generally considered pejorative because of its association with pre-1970 DSM classification of homosexuality as psychopathological, conversion therapies, and contemporary religious condemnation.
- Bisexual**. Having the potential to be romantically/sexually attracted to a person of *either* sex, *or regardless* of a person's sex. Does not imply non-monogamy. "Technical bisexuality" refers to a person whose lifetime sexual behavior includes both same- & other-sex contact, but who is not otherwise bisexual in attractions or identity.
- Homophobia**. Fear of homosexuality. Often used inaccurately to refer to all forms of prejudice or discrimination against LGB; not all heterosexism (see below) is homophobic. "Internalized homophobia" describes individuals who are same-sex attracted and who fear or hate that part of themselves; they might or might not consciously realize their same-sex attraction. Internalized homophobia is claimed by some to motivate gay bashing; evidence is clinical case-based, not quantitative.
- Heterosexism**. Encompasses all forms of prejudice and discrimination against LGB, including intentional, interpersonal, institutional, and structural forms of discrimination.

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