

## ***Basic LGBTQ+ Terms***

### *Sexual Orientation*

**Asexual people:** Individuals who generally do not experience sexual attraction to others of any gender. Some do experience romantic attractions. Asexuality differs from celibacy in that celibates have a sexual attraction but choose to abstain from sex.

**Bisexual people:** Individuals who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to people of more than one gender or people who are attracted to genders similar to their own and to genders different from their own.

**Gay men:** Men who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to other men.

**Lesbians:** Women who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to other women.

**Pansexual people:** Individuals who are attracted to others regardless of their gender identity or biological sex.

**Queer people:** An umbrella term to refer to all LGBTQ+ people. It is also a specific identity of individuals whose sexuality is fluid or does not fit into traditional sexual orientation categories.

**Questioning or unsure people:** Individuals who are in the process of deciding on their sexual orientation.

**Same-gender loving people:** Individuals who experience same-gender attraction. The term originated within communities of color as an alternative to “lesbian” and “gay,” which they feel does not speak to their cultural heritages.

**Straight or heterosexual people:** Men who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to women, and women who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to men.

### *Gender Identity*

**Agender people:** Individuals who identify as not having a gender. Some describe themselves as genderless, while others see themselves as gender neutral.

**Cisgender men:** Men who were assigned male at birth (i.e., men who are not trans).

**Cisgender women:** Women who were assigned female at birth (i.e., women who are not trans).

**Gender fluid people:** Individuals whose gender varies over time. A gender fluid person may at any time identify as male, female, agender, or any other nonbinary gender identity, or as some combination of gender identities.

**Genderqueer people:** Individuals who identify as neither male nor female (but as another gender), as somewhere in between or beyond genders, or as a combination of genders.

**Nonbinary people:** An umbrella term and a specific identity for individuals who do not fit into traditional “male” and “female” gender categories.

**Questioning or unsure people:** Individuals who are in the process of deciding on their gender identity.

**Trans men:** Men who were assigned female at birth.

**Trans women:** Women who were assigned male at birth.