

# Glossary of LGBTQIA+ Terms

(last updated 7/12/22)

**Aces or asexual people:** Individuals who generally experience little or no sexual attraction to others of any gender.

**Agender people:** Individuals who identify as not having a gender. Agender people may identify as **neutrois**, genderless, or gender-neutral, having an unknown or indefinable gender, or deciding not to label their gender.

**AGs or aggressives:** Lesbians who express themselves in a masculine manner, such as by binding their breasts. They are also called **studs**. The terms are more commonly used in communities of color.

**Alloromantic people:** Individuals who experience romantic attraction to others of any gender (i.e., people who are not **aromantic**).

**Allosexism:** The societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that assume that everyone experiences or should experience sexual attraction. Allosexism privileges **allosexual people** and leads to prejudice and discrimination against asexual people.

**Allosexual people:** Individuals who experience sexual attraction to others of any gender (i.e., people who are not **asexual**).

**Amatonormativity:** The assumption that a central, exclusive, amorous relationship is a universally shared goal for all people and is valued over all other relationship types.

**Androgyne people:** Individuals whose gender identity is simultaneously male and female or in between male and female and whose gender expression is often androgynous, combining both traditionally feminine and masculine characteristics (although not necessary in equal amounts).

**Androromantic people:** Individuals who experience romantic attraction toward men, males, and/or masculinity, regardless of whether the people were assigned male at birth (contrast to **gynoromantic people**).

**Androsexual people:** Individuals who experience sexual attraction toward men, males, and/or masculinity, regardless of whether they were assigned male at birth (contrast to **gynosexual people**).

**Aros or aromantic people:** Individuals who generally experience little or no romantic attraction to others of any gender.

**Bi or bisexual people:** Individuals who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to people of more than one gender.

**Bigender people:** Individuals who experience their gender identity as two genders at the same time or whose gender identity may vary between two genders.

**Binary trans people:** Individuals who identify as **trans women** or **trans men**.

**Biromantic people:** Individuals who are romantically, but not necessarily sexually, attracted to people of more than one gender.

**Bois:** Individuals assigned female at birth who do not identify or only partly identify as feminine or female. They may identify as **trans masculine** or as a cis **lesbian** or **queer** person.

**Butches:** Individuals of any gender or sexual identity who present and act in traditionally masculine ways, which could include being the “dominant” partner in sexual relationships.

**Cassgender people:** Individuals who might identify as a particular gender, but who feel that their gender is unimportant or an insignificant part of themselves.

**Chosen name:** The name that someone uses for themselves. Acceptable alternative terms are “affirmed name” or “lived name.” The term “preferred name” should not be used because the name that a trans person goes by is not a preference.

**Cis or cisgender people:** Individuals who identify with the sex that was assigned to them at birth (i.e., people who are not **trans**).

**Cisnormativity:** The assumption that cisgender is the default or norm and that being cis is more valued than all other gender identities, which results in the marginalization and erasure of trans and gender-nonconforming people. It is rooted in the erroneous beliefs that gender is a binary (women and men) and that **sex assigned at birth** is immutable.

**Crossdressers:** Individuals who present their gender in ways that are traditionally associated with people of a gender different from how they were assigned at birth.

**Dead name:** The first name assigned at birth to a trans person that they do not use for themselves.

**Demigender people:** Individuals who feel a partial connection to a particular gender identity. Examples of demigender identities include demigirl, demiboy, and demiandrogyne.

**Demiromantic people:** Individuals who typically do not feel romantic attraction to someone unless they have already formed a strong emotional bond with the person.

**Demis or demisexual people:** Individuals who typically do not feel sexual attraction to someone unless they have already formed a strong emotional bond with the person.

**Dyadic people:** Individuals who are born with chromosomes, a reproductive system, and a sexual anatomy that fit into the prevailing standard for “female” or “male” individuals (i.e., people who are not **intersex**).

**Dyadism or binarism:** The societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that assume that there are only two “biological” or “natural” sexes—female and male.

Dyadism/binarism privileges dyadic people and leads to prejudice and discrimination against people with intersex variations.

**Feminine of center people:** Individuals assigned male at birth who tend toward the feminine in their gender identity/expression.

**Femmes:** Individuals of any gender or sexual identity who present and act in traditionally feminine ways, which could include being the “subordinate” partner in sexual relationships.

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

**Gender binary:** The social system that sees only two genders and that requires everyone to be raised as a man or a woman, depending on the sex assigned to them at birth.

**Genderdoe or genderfae people:** Individuals who are **genderfluid** between feminine genders, nonbinary genders, or genderlessness, but never masculine genders (contrast to **genderfaun people**).

**Genderfaun people:** Individuals who are **genderfluid** between masculine genders, nonbinary genders, or genderlessness, but never feminine genders (contrast to **genderdoe people**).

**Genderfluid people:** Individuals whose gender varies over time. A genderfluid person may at any time identify as male, female, genderless, or any nonbinary gender identity, or as some combination of gender identities. Some genderfluid individuals specify the genders they are fluid between (e.g., someone who is amascuafluid is fluid between agender and masculine genders, and someone who is afemmafluid is fluid between agender and masculine genders).

**Genderflux people:** Individuals whose gender varies in intensity over time. A genderflux person may at any time identify as male, female, genderless, or any nonbinary gender identity, or as some combination of gender identities to varying degrees. Some genderflux individuals specify the genders they fluctuate between (e.g., girlflux or mascflux).

**Gender-inclusive or gender-expansive facilities:** Bathrooms, restrooms, and locker rooms that are open to people of all genders. They may be single- or multiple-user facilities.

**Gender-inclusive or gender-expansive housing:** Residence hall rooms that are assigned regardless of gender, so that a student can have a roommate(s) of any gender. Sometimes “gender-neutral housing” is used, but this term is increasingly seen as inappropriate because it implies that the concept of gender is being neutralized or erased, rather than being expanded and embraced.

**Genderism:** The societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that assume that there are only two genders and that gender is determined by one's sex assignment at birth or by specific sex characteristics. Genderism privileges cis people and leads to prejudice and discrimination against trans and gender-nonconforming people.

**Gender-nonconforming people:** Individuals who do not adhere to the traditional gender expectations for appearance and behavior of people of their assigned sex. Some identify as trans, but others do not.

**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.

**Graces, gray A's, or gray asexuals:** Individuals whose sexual attraction exists within the gray area between sexual and asexual. They experience sexual attraction infrequently or not very strongly. Other terms that are used to describe this identity are semisexual, asexual-ish, and sexual-ish.

**Gray romantics:** Individuals whose romantic attraction exists within the gray area between romantic and aromantic. They experience romantic attraction infrequently or not very strongly.

**Gynoromantic people:** Individuals who experience romantic attraction toward women, females, and/or femininity, regardless of whether the people were assigned female at birth (contrast to **androromantic people**).

**Gynosexual/gynesexual people:** Individuals who experience sexual attraction toward women, females, and/or femininity, regardless of whether they were assigned female at birth (contrast to **androsexual people**).

**Heteroflexible people:** Individuals who are primarily attracted to people of a gender different from themselves and who typically identify as heterosexual, but who may engage in same-sex sexual activity in certain situations. As it is defined by the Urban Dictionary, “I’m straight but shit happens.”

**Heteronormativity:** The assumption that heterosexuality is the default or norm and that being heterosexual is more valued than all other sexual identities, which results in the marginalization and erasure of LGBTQ+ people.

**Heteroromantic people:** Individuals who are romantically, but not necessarily sexually, attracted to people of a gender different from themselves.

**Heterosexism:** The societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that assume that all people are heterosexual. Heterosexism privileges heterosexual people and leads to prejudice



and discrimination against asexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, and other people with non-heterosexual sexual identities.

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

**Homoflexible people:** Individuals who are primarily attracted to people of the same gender as themselves and who typically identify as lesbian or gay, but who may engage in sexual activity with people of a gender different from themselves in certain situations.

**Homoromantic people:** Individuals who are romantically, but not necessarily sexually, attracted to people of a gender similar to themselves.

**Intersex:** An umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural biological variations of individuals who are born with a chromosomal pattern, a reproductive system, and/or sexual anatomy that does not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies.

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

**Lithosexual or akoisexual people:** Individuals who feel sexual attraction toward others, but do not desire reciprocation of that attraction or do not wish to enter a sexual relationship.

**Lithromantic or akoirromantic people:** Individuals who feel romantic attraction toward others, but do not desire reciprocation of that attraction or do not wish to enter a romantic relationship.

**Masculine of center people:** Individuals assigned female at birth who tend toward the masculine in their gender identity/expression.

**Monosexism:** The societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that assume that all people are attracted to only one other sex or gender—that one is either exclusively heterosexual or exclusively lesbian/gay. Monosexism privileges people with binary sexual identities and leads to prejudice and discrimination against bisexual, pansexual, queer, and other people with nonbinary sexual identities.

**Neopronouns:** Third-person pronouns in English beyond the traditional “he,” “she,” “they,” “it,” and “one.” Neopronouns include pleopronouns, which are non-themed pronouns (e.g., “xe/xem,” “ze/zem,” “ve/ven,” “ey/em”), and nounself pronouns, which take a pre-existing word and turn it into a pronoun set (e.g., “fae/faer” derived from “fairy” and “bun/buns” derived from “bunny”).

**Neutrois people:** Individuals who identify their gender as neutral or null. They may also identify as **agender**.

**Nonbinary trans people:** An umbrella term or a specific identity for individuals who do not fit into traditional “male” and “female” gender categories. Nonbinary people include individuals who identify as **bigender**, **genderfluid**, **genderqueer**, **pangender**, and many additional genders.

**Pangender people:** Individuals whose gender identity is numerous, either fixed (many at once) or fluid (moving from one gender to other genders).

**Panromantic people:** Individuals who are romantically, but not necessarily sexually, attracted to others regardless of their gender identity or biological sex.

**Pansexual or omnisexual people:** Individuals who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to other people regardless of their gender identity or biological sex.

**Personal pronouns:** The pronouns that someone uses for themselves. The term “preferred pronouns” should not be used because someone’s pronouns are not a preference.

**Plurisexual people:** An umbrella term for individuals, including **bisexual**, **pansexual**, and **polysexual** individuals, who are attracted to people of more than one gender.

**Polygender people:** Individuals who experience multiple gender identities, either simultaneously or at different times.

**Polysexual people:** Individuals who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to people of more than one gender and/or form of gender expression, but not to all.

**QTPOC (pronounced “cutie poc”):** Queer and trans people of color.

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

**Queerplatonic:** Non-romantic relationships that involve close emotional connections that are often deeper or more intense than what is traditionally found in friendships.

**Questioning people:** Individuals who are uncertain about how they identify their gender and/or sexuality.

**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 felt did not speak to their cultural heritages.

**Sapiosexual people:** Individuals who are attracted to people based on intelligence, rather than gender identity or biological sex.

**Sex assigned at birth:** Sex designation given at birth, typically based on one’s genitals. Most people are assigned female at birth (AFAB) or assigned male at birth (AMAB).

**Sexually fluid people:** Individuals whose sexuality varies over time. A sexually fluid person may at any time identify as heterosexual, lesbian/gay, bisexual, or any other nonbinary sexual identity, or as some combination of sexual identities.

**Skoliosexual people:** Individuals who experience sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attractions to people with nonbinary gender identities.

**Studs:** Lesbians who express themselves in a masculine manner, such as by binding their breasts. They are also called **AGs** or **aggressives**. The term is more commonly used in communities of color.

**Third gender people:** Individuals who identify as neither male nor female but as another gender.

**Trans people:** An umbrella terms for individuals whose gender identity and/or expression is different from the sex assigned to them at birth. Among individuals who might identify as trans include **binary trans people** (trans women and trans men) and **nonbinary trans people** (individuals who identify as agender, androgyne, demigender, genderfluid, genderqueer, and other identities that go beyond traditional gender categories).

**Transfeminine or transfem people or trans femmes:** Individuals who were assigned male at birth who identify as feminine, but not necessarily as trans women.

**Transmasculine or transmasc people:** Individuals who were assigned female at birth who identify as masculine, but not necessarily as trans men.

**Trans men:** Men who were assigned female at birth. This term should be used instead of “transsexual men” or “FTMs,” which are considered outdated.

**Transmisogynoir:** A term based on **transmisogyny** to describe the unique discrimination experienced by trans women of color, who face a combination of racism, misogyny, and anti-trans beliefs and practices.

**Transmisogyny:** A term coined by trans writer and activist Julia Serano to describe the unique discrimination experienced by trans women and trans feminine individuals, who face a combination of anti-trans and anti-women beliefs and practices.

**Trans women:** Women who were assigned male at birth. This term should be used instead of “transsexual women” or “MTFs,” which are considered outdated.

**Two-spirit people:** A pan-Indian term for individuals in traditional Indigenous cultures in North America who identified and were recognized as neither female nor male. The term is also used by some contemporary LGBTQ+ Indigenous people to describe themselves.

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