

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 non-binary term used by individuals who see their sexual orientation and/or gender identity as fluid or who do not want to place their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in a traditional “box.”

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 attraction to women, and vice versa.

Gender Identity

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

Androgynes: Individuals who identify androgynously. They have a gender which is both feminine and masculine, although not necessary in equal amounts.

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

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.

Trans men: Individuals assigned female at birth who identify as male.

Trans women: Individuals assigned male at birth who identify as female.