

Glossary of terms relating to sexual orientation and gender identity

Sexual orientation OR Sexuality	Someone's sexual identity. What types of people someone is attracted to.
Lesbian	A woman who is attracted to other women
Gay	A man or woman who is attracted to someone of the same gender
Bisexual	Someone who is attracted to more than one gender
Pansexual	Someone who is attracted to a person of any sex or gender
Asexual	Someone who experiences little or no sexual attraction
Gender identity	How you feel about your own gender
Gender expression	How you present your gender to everyone around you
Biological sex	How you are assigned based on what your doctor sees when you're born
Transgender	Someone who does not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth
Cisgender	Someone who does identify with the gender they were assigned at birth
Intersex	Someone whose body has male and female features.
Non-binary	Someone who does not identify as simply male or female
Gender fluid	Someone who feels differently about their gender at different times in their life
Pronouns	Words used to replace a person's name, e.g. he, she, they. 'They' can either be used to talk about more than one person, or as a gender-neutral pronoun for a singular person.
Transition	The process by which a transgender person begins living as the gender they identify with. This might involve using a new name, new pronouns, dressing differently, or sometimes (but not always) medical intervention.
Gender dysphoria	The clinical definition of the discomfort people feel when their gender identity does not match the sex they were assigned at birth.
Questioning	Someone who is questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity
Queer	A term that has changed a great deal through history and means different things to different people. While it used to be an insulting term for gay men, more recently, some people use it to mean anyone who does not identify as heterosexual and cisgender.
Ally	Someone who stands with people who identify a certain way, while not identifying that way themselves