

QUEER CAFÉ

P R E S E N T S

Terminology and Definitions

LGBTQ LEXICON





Sexual Orientation

Enduring emotional, spiritual, romantic, or sexual attraction that a person feels toward another person.



One's natural fondness or affection for another person.

One's inherent or innate sexual interest in members of the same, opposite, or both sexes.



Sexual Orientation

One's intimate relationship with another person.

One's feelings of love for another person.



It is not a choice, lifestyle or behavior.

It is an inner sense of identity.



Sexual Orientation

One's sexual orientation may be defined as heterosexual... straight or opposite-sex attraction.

It may be defined as homosexual... gay/lesbian or same-sex attraction.

Or it may be defined as something in between... bisexual, pansexual, polysexual, or asexual.





Gender Identity

Psychological understanding of oneself.

Inner view of oneself regarding gender.



Personal perception of oneself as a man or woman.

Self concept.

How one feels inside.



Gender Identity

A person may identify him/herself as a man or a woman regardless of his/her biological sex or medical assignment.



If a person identifies his/her gender as opposite from his/her biological sex, he/she is referred to as transgender.



Gender Identity

If a person identifies his/her gender as something in between, he/she might be referred to as...



gender variant, gender fluid, gender non-conforming, third gender, or two spirit



Gender Expression

Social expectations or interpretations regarding a person's masculinity or femininity.

Manner in which a person expresses his or her gender publicly.

The way a person communicates his or her gender to others.





Gender Expression

One's public presentation of one's gender.

Outward appearance as manifest through...



Mannerisms, clothing, hair style, grooming, make-up, speech pattern.



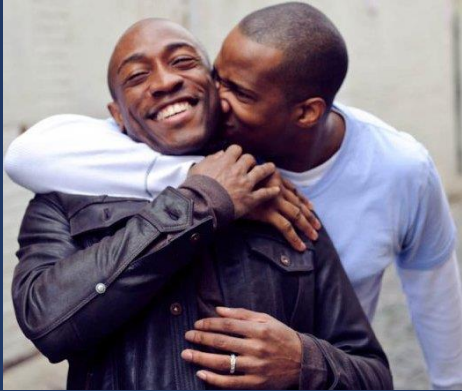
Gender Expression

**One's gender expression may be viewed as masculine or butch.
Or it may be viewed as feminine or femme.**



Or it may be viewed as something in between, such as someone who is a gender bender or genderqueer.

Or, someone may be agender, genderless, or androgynous.



Gay

Term used to describe men who have an emotional, romantic or sexual attraction or affection for other men.

A man who is in a committed, loving relationship with another man.

Sometimes the term is used to refer to all sexual orientations



Lesbian

Term used to describe women who have an emotional, romantic, or sexual attraction or affection for other women.



A woman who is in a committed, loving relationship with another woman.



Some women prefer to use the term "gay."



Bisexual

One who has significant sexual and romantic attractions to members of the same and opposite sex.



A person has an affectional, emotional, sensual, and sexual affinity or desire for both men and women.



Bisexual

A person who possesses the potential to feel sexually attracted to and to engage in romantic or sexual relationships with people of either sex.



**A person who “goes both ways.”
Not someone who is “on the fence.”**

This is an actual orientation and does not refer to someone who is confused or questioning.



Transgender

Person whose core gender identity or psychological aspect of him/herself is different from his/her physical or biological sex or medical assignment.



Some, but not all, transgender people want to have gender reassignment surgery.



Transgender

Many transgender people experience *gender dysphoria*, which is a feeling of incongruence regarding one's gender.



The degree to which individuals feel genuine, authentic, and comfortable within their external appearance and accept their genuine identity has been called *transgender congruence*.



Straight

Person with a heterosexual orientation.



One who is attracted to members of the opposite sex.



One who is in a romantic, loving relationship with a person of the opposite sex.

Person who is not homosexual.



Cisgender

Person whose core gender identity matches his/her physical and biological sex.



Person whose psychological aspect is aligned with his/her medical assignment or birth gender.



Person who is not transgender or genderqueer.



Questioning

Person who is exploring his or her sexual orientation or gender identity.

They are described as bi-curious or unsure or "on the fence."

They are curious about their sexuality and have questions about whether they are straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual.



In the Closet

LGBTQ persons who conceal or hide their sexual orientation or gender identity from others.

“Closeted” LGBTQ persons are not able to tell their secret or reveal their true selves.

“Closeted” LGBTQ persons fear for their safety. They fear rejection, disapproval, or loss of relationships or opportunities.



Coming Out

Act of telling another person that you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

Process by which someone is able to reveal or disclose his/her sexual identity to another person.

For many LGBTQ persons, this is a continuing process which occurs every time they meet someone new.



Outed

Involuntary, unwanted, or unexpected disclosure of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity status.

Breach of confidentiality in which private information about an LGBTQ person is revealed without his/her permission or against his/her wishes.

"Outing" an LGBTQ person can happen accidentally or intentionally.



Homophobia

Intense and irrational fear, hatred, and intolerance of same-sex relationships and LGBTQ people.



LGBTQ people are seen as sick, crazy, immoral, sinful, wicked.



Anything is believed to be justified in order to change them, including discrimination, harassment, and violence.



Heterosexism

Assumption that everyone is or needs to be heterosexual.



Oppressive, prejudiced, bigoted, heteronormative attitude or mindset.



The notion that heterosexuality is more natural and normal.

The belief that heterosexuality is inevitable, superior, and preferred.



Heterosexual Privilege

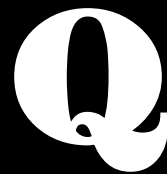
Heterosexuality is identified as the norm in our culture.



It is an exclusive position benefitting from societal and institutional reinforcement and entitlement.



It carries with it the elitist assumption that everyone should identify as heterosexual.



QUEER CAFÉ LGBTQ INFORMATION NETWORK

www.queercafe.net