

# Glossary

These definitions are compiled from theoretical, practical, and cultural perspectives as commonly used. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive or representative of LGBT terminology. As with any terminology, definitions are influenced by the user, geographical location, and context. The intent of this glossary is to provide the reader with an understanding of terminology found in this book. In addition, each chapter defines specific terminology within the context in which it is used.

**Biphobia** Aversion to, fear of, hatred of, or discrimination against people who are bisexual, which is typically based on the binary standard of male and female.

**Bisexual** A person who is attracted to both people of their own gender and another gender. Bisexuality can occur simultaneously or concurrently.

**Cisgender** Someone who is comfortable with the gender identity and gender expression expectations assigned to him or her based on his or her physical sex.

**Coming out** The process of acknowledging one's sexual orientation and/or gender identity and/or revealing one's sexuality, gender

**FMT/F2M**

**Gay**

**Gender binary**

**Gender confirming surgery**

**Gender expression**

**Gender identity**

identity, or intersexed status with others. Abbreviation for female-to-male transgender or transsexual person. (1) A person who is primarily attracted to persons of the same gender; (2) typically refers to males who are attracted to males in a romantic, erotic, and/or emotional way; or (3) refers to the LGBTQI community as a whole.

The concept that there are only two genders—male and female and that a person must be strictly gendered as either/or.

Medical surgeries used to modify one's body to be more congruent with one's gender identity. Also referred to as gender reassignment surgery.

Refers to ways in which each individual manifests masculinity or femininity and expresses it through clothing, hair style, body movement, behavior, appearance, etc.

A person's sense of being masculine, feminine, or gendered.

<b>Gender variant</b>	A person who, by nature or by choice, does not conform to gender-based expectations of society.	<b>MFT/M2F</b>	Abbreviation for male-to-female transgender or transsexual person.
<b>Heteronormativity</b>	The assumption is, in individuals and in institutions, that everyone is heterosexual and that heterosexuality is superior to being lesbian, gay, or bisexual.	<b>Outing</b>	Involuntary disclosure of one's sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status. Outing is usually done by someone else.
<b>Heterosexism</b>	Prejudice against those who exhibit non-heterosexual behaviors or identities commonly combined with the majority to impose such prejudice.	<b>Queer</b>	An umbrella term often used interchangeably with LGBT, which embraces a matrix of sexual preferences, orientations, and behaviors of the not-exclusively-heterosexual-and-monogamous majority. The term may have negative connotations for some, but is accepted by many younger people.
<b>Homophobia</b>	A range of negative attitudes, feelings, fear, hatred, or discomfort with people who identify as LGBT.	<b>Questioning</b>	The process of exploring and discovering one's own sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
<b>In the closet (closeted)</b>	Refers to LGBT or intersexed persons who have not disclosed their sex, sexuality, sexual orientation, or gender identity to others.	<b>Same gender loving</b>	A term used by the African-American/Black community to refer to an alternative sexual orientation without using terms and symbols associated with Europeans.
<b>Intergender</b>	A person whose gender identity is between genders or a combination of genders.	<b>Sexual orientation</b>	The type of sexual, romantic, and/or physical attraction someone feels toward others.
<b>Intersexed person (formally called hermaphrodites)</b>	Someone born with both chromosomal and/or physiological abnormalities, and/or ambiguous genitalia.	<b>Stealth</b>	A person chooses not to disclose in the public sphere about his or her gender history, either after transitioning or while successfully passing.
<b>Lesbian (gay woman)</b>	A woman who has an emotional, social, psychological, and physical commitment and response to other women.	<b>Transgender (trans)</b>	An umbrella term to refer to those who do not identify with their assigned
<b>LGBTQI</b>	Abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersexed community.		

	gender or anatomical sex at birth or binary gender system.	Human Rights Campaign: <a href="http://www.hrc.org/resources/entry/glossary-of-terms">http://www.hrc.org/resources/entry/glossary-of-terms</a>
<b>Transphobia</b>	The irrational fear of those who are gender variant and/or the inability to deal with gender ambiguity.	International Spectrum: <a href="http://www.internationalspectrum.umich.edu/life/definitions">http://www.internationalspectrum.umich.edu/life/definitions</a>
<b>Transsexual</b>	Persons who have had their bodies surgically and hormonally reconstructed to match their gender identity.	PFLAG Atlanta: <a href="http://www.pflag.org/lgbt-glossary/">http://www.pflag.org/lgbt-glossary/</a>
<b>Two-spirit</b>	A Native/American/Indian-First Nation term for people who blend the masculine and the feminine. Two-spirit persons are accepted or revered by Native/First Nation cultures.	UCLA LGBT Resource Center: <a href="http://www.lgbt.ucla.edu/documents/LGBTTerminology.pdf">www.lgbt.ucla.edu/documents/LGBTTerminology.pdf</a>
<b>Ze/Hir/Hirs</b>	Alternate pronouns that are gender neutral and preferred by some gender variant persons. Pronounced /zee/ and /here/ and they replace “he”/“she” and “his”/“hers” respectfully.	

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## Resources

These definitions have been compiled from the following Web sites, which are recommended for additional definitions:

Gender Equity Resource Center: [http://geneq.berkeley.edu/lgbt\\_resources\\_definition\\_of\\_terms](http://geneq.berkeley.edu/lgbt_resources_definition_of_terms)

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