

2SLGBTQI Glossary of Terms

AGENDER

A person who identifies as either having no gender or a neutral gender identity.

ASEXUAL

A person who does not experience sexual attraction, or who has little to no interest in sexual activity.

ANDROGYNOUS

A word to describe a behaviour, trait, or style of expression that either blends both masculine and feminine forms of expression, or is culturally read as gender-neutral.

BISEXUAL

A person who experiences attraction to both people of their own gender and people of gender different from their own.

CISGENDER

A person whose gender identity corresponds with what is socially expected based on their sex assigned at birth (e.g. a person who was assigned male at birth and identifies as a man).

DEMISEXUAL

A person who experiences sexual attraction to someone only after having an emotional attraction to them.

DYADIC

A person whose chromosomal, hormonal, or anatomical sex characteristics fall within the conventional classifications of male or female.

FEMININE

A word to describe a behaviour, trait, or style of expression that has cultural associations with 'being a woman'. These associations change over time, between cultures, and from person to person.

GAY

A person who experiences attraction to people of the same gender as themselves. Gay may be used by individuals of a diversity of genders, or may refer specifically to men who are attracted to other men.

HETEROSEXUAL

A person who experiences attraction to people of a different gender. Also referred to as "straight".

INTERSEX

A person whose chromosomal, hormonal, or anatomical sex characteristics fall outside of the conventional classifications of male or female.

LESBIAN

A person who identifies as a woman and experiences attraction to people of the same gender.

MASCULINE

A word to describe a behaviour, trait, or style of expression that has cultural associations with 'being a man'. These associations change over time, between cultures, and from person to person.

NONBINARY

An umbrella term to reflect a variety of gender identities that are not exclusively man or woman. Identity terms which may fall within this category include: genderqueer, agender, bigender, genderfluid, or pangender.

PANSEXUAL

A person who experiences attraction regardless of gender.

QUEER

This term has been reclaimed by some 2SLGBTQI communities as a term of pride and affirmation of diversity. It can be used to encompass a broad spectrum of identities related to sex, gender, and attraction or by an individual to reflect the interrelatedness of these aspects of their identity.

QUESTIONING

An umbrella term for the process of reconciling: 1) All the feelings you have within yourself about how you experience your attraction and/or gender, 2) The language you have available to you to describe those feelings, and 3) Your sense of how this will impact your interactions with others in your social context.

TWO SPIRIT (2S)

An English umbrella term to reflect and restore Indigenous traditions forcefully suppressed by colonization, honouring the fluid and diverse nature of gender and attraction and its connection to community and spirituality. It is used by some Indigenous People rather than, or in addition to identifying as LGBTQI.

TRANS

A person whose gender identity does not correspond with what is socially expected based on their sex assigned at birth. It can be used as an umbrella term to refer to a range of gender identities and experiences.