

LGBTQ Terminology

Advocate – (noun) (1) a person who actively works to end intolerance, educate others, and support social equity for a marginalized group. (verb) (2) to actively support/plea in favor of a particular cause, the action of working to end intolerance, educate others, etc.

Ally – (noun) a straight identified person who supports, and respects for members of the LGBTQ community

Androgyny/ous – (adj) (1) a gender expression that has elements of both masculinity and femininity; (2) occasionally used in place of “intersex” to describe a person with both female and male anatomy

Androsexual/Androphilic – (adj) attraction to men, males, and/or masculinity

Aromantic – (adj) is a person who experiences little or no romantic attraction to others and/or a lack of interest in forming romantic relationships.

Asexual – (adj) having a lack of (or low level of) sexual attraction to others and/or a lack of interest or desire for sex or sexual partners

Bigender – (adj) a person who fluctuates between traditionally “woman” and “man” gender-based behavior and identities, identifying with both genders (and sometimes a third gender)

Bicurious – (adj) a curiosity about having attraction to people of the same gender/sex (similar to questioning)

Biological Sex – (noun) a medical term used to refer to the chromosomal, hormonal and anatomical characteristics that are used to classify an individual as female or male or intersex. Often abbreviated to simply “sex”.

Biphobia – (noun) a range of negative attitudes (e.g., fear, anger, intolerance, resentment, or discomfort) that one may have/express towards bisexual individuals. Biphobia can come from and be seen within the queer community as well as straight society.. Biphobic (adj) a word used to describe an individual who harbors some elements of this range of negative attitudes towards bisexual people

Bisexual – (adj) a person emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to males/men and females/women. This attraction does not have to be equally split between genders and there may be a preference for one gender over others.

Butch – (noun & adj) a person who identifies themselves as masculine, whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally. ‘Butch’ is sometimes used as a derogatory term for lesbians, but is also be claimed as an affirmative identity label.

Cisgender – (adj) a person whose gender identity and biological sex assigned at birth align (e.g., man and male-assigned)



Cisnormativity – (noun) the assumption, in individuals or in institutions, that everyone is cisgender, and that cisgender identities are superior to trans* identities or people. Leads to invisibility of non-cisgender identities

Closeted – (adj) an individual who is not open to themselves or others about their (queer) sexuality or gender identity. This may be by choice and/or for other reasons such as fear for one's safety, peer or family rejection or disapproval and/or loss of housing, job, etc. Also known as being "in the closet." When someone chooses to break this silence they "come out" of the closet. (See coming out)

Coming Out – (1) the process by which one accepts and/or comes to identify one's own sexuality or gender identity (to "come out" to oneself). (2) The process by which one shares one's sexuality or gender identity with others (to "come out" to friends, etc.).

Cross-dresser – (noun) someone who wears clothes of another gender/sex.

Demi-sexual – (noun) an individual who does not experience sexual attraction unless they have formed a strong emotional connection with another individual. Often within a romantic relationship.

Drag King – (noun) someone who performs masculinity theatrically.

Drag Queen – (noun) someone who performs femininity theatrically.

Dyke – (noun) a term referring to a masculine presenting lesbian. While often used derogatorily, it can be adopted affirmatively by many lesbians (and not necessarily masculine ones) as a positive self-identity term

Fag(got) – (noun) derogatory term referring to a gay person, or someone perceived as queer. Occasionally used as an self-identifying affirming term by some gay men, at times in the shortened form 'fag'.

Femme – (noun & adj) someone who identifies themselves as feminine, whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally. Often used to refer to a feminine-presenting lesbian.

Fluid(ity) – generally with another term attached, like gender-fluid or fluid-sexuality, fluid(ity) describes an identity that is a fluctuating mix of the options available (e.g., man and woman, bi and straight)

FTM / F2M – abbreviation for female-to-male transgender or transsexual person.

Gay – (adj) (1) a term used to describe individuals who are primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the same sex. More commonly used when referring to males, but can be applied to females as well. (2) An umbrella term used to refer to the queer community as a whole, or as an individual identity label for anyone who does not identify as heterosexual.

Gender Binary – (noun) the idea that there are only two genders – male/female or man/woman and that a person must be strictly gendered as either/or.

Gender Expression – (noun) the external display of one's gender, through a combination of dress, demeanor, social behavior, and other factors, generally measured on scales of masculinity and femininity.



Gender Fluid - (adj) gender fluid is a gender identity best described as a dynamic mix of boy and girl. A person who is gender fluid may always feel like a mix of the two traditional genders, but may feel more man

Gender Identity – (noun) the internal perception of an one's gender, and how they label themselves, based on how much they align or don't align with what they understand their options for gender to be. Common identity terms include man, woman, genderqueer...

Gender Normative / Gender Straight – (adj) someone whose gender presentation, whether by nature or by choice, aligns with society's gender-based expectations

Genderqueer - (adj) is a catch-all term for gender identities other than man and woman, thus outside of the gender binary and cisnormativity (sometimes referred to as non-binary). People who identify as genderqueer may think of themselves as one or more of the following:

- both man and woman (bigender, pangender);
- neither man nor woman (genderless, agender);
- moving between genders (genderfluid);
- third gender or other-gendered; includes those who do not place a name to their gender
- having an overlap of, or blurred lines between, gender identity and sexual and romantic orientation.

Gender Variant – (adj) someone who either by nature or by choice does not conform to gender-based expectations of society (e.g. transgender, transsexual, intersex, gender-queer, cross-dresser, etc.).

Gynesexual/Gynephilic – (adj) attracted to woman, females, and/or femininity

Hermaphrodite – (noun) an outdated medical term previously used to refer someone who was born with both male and female biological characteristics; not used today as it is considered to be medically stigmatizing, and also misleading as it means a person who is 100% male and female, a biological impossibility for humans (preferred term is intersex)

Heteronormativity – (noun) the assumption, in individuals or in institutions, that everyone is heterosexual, and that heterosexuality is superior to all other sexualities. Leads to invisibility and stigmatizing of other sexualities.

Heterosexism – (noun) behavior that grants preferential treatment to heterosexual people, reinforces the idea that heterosexuality is somehow better or more "right" than queerness, or makes other sexualities invisible

Heterosexual – (adj) a person primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex. Also see straight.

Homophobia – (noun) an umbrella term for a range of negative attitudes (e.g., fear, anger, intolerance, resentment, or discomfort) that one may have towards members of LGBTQ community. The term can also connote a fear, disgust, or dislike of being perceived as LGBTQ.

Intersex – (adj) someone whose combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, internal sex organs, and genitals differs from the two expected patterns of male or female. Formerly known as hermaphrodite (or hermaphroditic), but these terms are now considered outdated and derogatory.

Lesbian – (noun) a term used to describe women attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally



Lipstick Lesbian – (noun) Usually refers to a lesbian with a feminine gender expression. Can be used in a positive or a derogatory way. Is sometimes also used to refer to a lesbian who is assumed to be (or passes for) straight.

Metropolitan – (noun & adj) a straight man with a strong aesthetic sense who spends more time, energy, or money on his appearance and grooming than is considered gender normative.

MTF/ M2F – abbreviation from male-to-female transgender or transsexual person.

Outing – (verb) involuntary or unwanted disclosure of another person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status.

Pansexual – (adj) a person who experiences sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions

Passing – (verb) (1) a term for trans* people being accepted as, or able to "pass for," a member of their self-identified gender/sex identity (regardless of birth sex). (2) An LGB/queer individual who can be believed to be or perceived as straight.

Polyamory – (noun) refers to having honest, usual non-possessive, relationships with multiple partners and can include: open relationships, polyfidelity (which involves multiple romantic relationships with sexual contact restricted to those), and sub-relationships (which denote distinguishing between a 'primary' relationship or relationships and various "secondary" relationships).

Queer – (adj) used as an umbrella term to describe individuals who identify as non-straight. Also used to describe people who have non-normative gender identity or as a political affiliation. Due to its historical use as a derogatory term, it is not embraced or used by all members of the LGBTQ community. The term queer can often be used interchangeably with LGBTQ.

Questioning (verb, adjective) - an individual who is unsure about or is exploring their own sexual orientation or gender identity.

Same Gender Loving / SGL – (adj) a term sometimes used by members of the African-American / Black community to express an alternative sexual orientation without relying on terms and symbols of European descent.

Sexual Orientation – (noun) the type of sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction one feels for others, often labeled based on the gender relationship between the person and the people they are attracted to (often mistakenly referred to as sexual preference)

Sexual Preference – (1) the types of sexual intercourse, stimulation, and gratification one likes to receive and participate in. (2) Generally when this term is used, it is being mistakenly interchanged with "sexual orientation," creating an illusion that one has a choice (or "preference") in who they are attracted to

Sex Reassignment Surgery / SRS – A term used by some medical professionals to refer to a group of surgical options that alter a person's biological sex. In most cases, one or multiple surgeries are required to achieve legal recognition of gender variance.



Skoliosexual – (adj) attracted to genderqueer and transsexual people and expressions (people who don't identify as cisgender)

Straight – (adj) a person primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex. A more colloquial term for the word heterosexual

Stud – (noun) an African-American and/of Latina masculine lesbian. Also known as 'butch' or 'aggressive'.

Top Surgery – (noun) this term refers to surgery for the construction of a male-type chest or breast augmentation for a female-type chest.

Trans* – (noun) an umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. Trans* people may identify with a particular descriptive term (e.g., transgender, transsexual, genderqueer, FTM).

Transgender – (1) An umbrella term covering a range of identities that transgress socially defined gender norms. (2) A person who lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on anatomical sex.

Transition(ing) – (noun & verb) this term is primarily used to refer to the process a trans* person undergoes when changing their bodily appearance either to be more congruent with the gender/sex they feel themselves to be and/or to be in harmony with their preferred gender expression.

Transman – (noun) An identity label sometimes adopted by female-to-male transgender people or transsexuals to signify that they are men while still affirming their history as females. (sometimes referred to as transguy)

Transphobia –(noun) the fear of, discrimination against, or hatred of trans* people, the trans* community, or gender ambiguity. Transphobia can be seen within the queer community, as well as in general society.

Transsexual – (noun & adj) a person who identifies psychologically as a gender/sex other than the one to which they were assigned at birth. Transsexuals often wish to transform their bodies hormonally and surgically to match their inner sense of gender/sex.

Transvestite – (noun) a person who dresses as the binary opposite gender expression ("cross-dresses") for any one of many reasons, including relaxation, fun, and sexual gratification (often called a "cross-dresser," and should not be confused with transsexual)

Transwoman – (noun) an identity label sometimes adopted by male-to-female transsexuals or transgender people to signify that they are women while still affirming their history as males.

Two-Spirit – (noun) is an umbrella term traditionally used by Native American people to recognize individuals who possess qualities or fulfill roles of both genders

Ze / Hir – alternate pronouns that are gender neutral and preferred by some trans* people. Pronounced /zee/ and /here/ they replace "he" and "she" and "his" and "hers" respectively. Alternatively some people who are not comfortable/do not embrace he/she use the plural pronoun "they/their" as a gender neutral singular pronoun.



First Impressions of LGBTQ People

Answer the following questions to the best of your ability:

1. How and when did you come to learn that not all people are straight or cisgender?
2. Where did most of the influence of your initial impressions/understanding of LGBTQ people come from? (e.g., family, friends, television, books, news, church)
3. Who is the first gay or lesbian character (TV, Film, Book, etc) you experienced? What was the portrayal like? (e.g., healthy, accurate, exaggerated, negative)
4. Were your first impressions of LGBTQ people mostly positive, mostly negative, or something else?
5. How have your impressions/understanding of LGBTQ people changed or evolved throughout your life?

The Top 7 Things to Unlearn about LGBTQ People

1. You can't spot a gay person by the way they dress or act.
2. Being LGBTQ is *not* a mental illness, or psychiatric condition.
3. HIV/AIDS is *not* an LGBTQ disease.
4. Lesbians do *not* really just need the "right man" to set them "straight." Gay men do *not* really just need the "right woman."
5. Gay men are *not* pedophiles, and LGBTQ people aren't trying to brainwash everyone to be gay. Straight people are the ones making all the gay kids.
6. LGBTQ people are *not* unhealthy/unfit parents.
7. Things are *not* equal for LGBTQ people in the United States, and even though it is "getting better," there is still a long way to go before LGBTQ people have the same rights and protections as straight/cisgender people.



Heterosexual Privileges for Sale

Please look at the following list of privileges; each privilege costs \$100 to purchase. As a group, please purchase as many privileges as your money allows.

1. Having a recognized marriage (in name only).*
2. Having other people celebrate your marriage.
3. Paid leave from your job when grieving the death of your partner.
4. Inheriting from your partner/lover/companion automatically after their death.
5. Having multiple positive TV role models.
6. Sharing health insurance with your partner.
7. Being able to find role models of the same sexual orientation.
8. Being able to see your partner immediately if in an accident or emergency.
9. Not being subjected to scrutiny in your job and not being able to be promoted without your sexuality being questioned
10. Adopting your children.
11. Filing joint tax returns.
12. Able to obtain child custody.
13. Kissing/hugging/being affectionate in public without threat or punishment.
14. Freely being able to discuss your relationship with others.
15. Being able to discuss and have access to multiple family planning options.
16. Not questioning normalcy both sexually and culturally.
17. Reading books or seeing movies about a relationship you wish you could have.
18. Receiving discounted home-owner insurance rates with your recognized partner.
19. Raising children without worrying about state intervention.
20. Having others comfort you when a relationship ends.
21. Being a foster parent.
22. Being employed as a pre-school or elementary school teacher without people assuming you will "corrupt" the children.
23. Dating the person you desired in your teens.
24. Raising children without worrying about people rejecting your children because of your sexual preference.
25. Living openly with your partner.
26. Receiving validation from your religious community.
27. Being accepted by your neighbors, colleagues, and new friends..
28. Being able to go to a doctor visit and have him or her understand your sexual orientation.
29. Not having to testify against your partner in a court of law
30. Having people correctly assume your sexuality.
31. Sponsoring your partner for citizenship.
32. Being open and having your partner accepted by your family.



Coming Out Story

Answer the following questions to the best of your ability:

Favorite or Most Important:

(please don't stress about the answers - they are simply for the activity)

1. [Person (friend / loved one)] _____
2. [Family Member / Relative] _____
3. [Hobby / Passion] _____
4. [Material Possession] _____
5. [Dream Job] _____

Coming Out Support

Supporting someone through their initial coming out process can be incredible, but we aren't taught how to do it well. Here are some tips:

- 1. Don't say "I've always known" or "why didn't you come out to me sooner?"** -- If someone is coming out to you, it means they trust you with new and sensitive information. This is likely a big deal for them, even if it's something you've suspected for a long time.
- 2. Do ask questions, be curious, inquire** -- Ask them how they are doing, if they have any crushes, if they want you to tell other people or keep it to yourself. Find out what they need or what from you right then, and why they are coming out to you now.
- 3. Listen, be patient, and don't push** -- If they aren't ready to tell you much more, give them time. If they don't want to tell other people, don't push them to. Every person's coming out experiences are different (due in part to the support/lack of support from family, friends, etc), so respect their wishes and preferences -- odds are they know best.

The coming out story you experienced is a particularly stark example of coming out, but it presented many unfortunate realities some LGBTQ people face when they share their identities with others. While it is vital that we understand the harsh realities of coming out for many individuals, it is also important to know that for many people this is not their reality. Many experience loving parents, friends, employers and more. However, it is important to know that no matter who the individual is and what their particular situation in life, coming out can be difficult, scary, and uncomfortable -- no matter how supportive individuals are around them. And remember that many individuals have to evaluate on a daily basis the repercussions that coming out could have on their life.



How to be an Ally

Do's and don'ts of being an awesome active ally.

One of the goals of the Safe Zone workshop is to turn lay people into super-educated, active, and helpful LGBTQ allies. But being an ally is more than just saying you're an ally. Following are guidelines we expect allies to live up to. If you're up to the challenge, sign the informal contract below and consider yourself welcomed to our ranks!

As an ally, I promise to be...

- **An ally 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year** -- being an ally isn't something you can turn on and off when it's convenient or comfortable for you. If you take on the ally mantle, that means you're signing up to be an ally at all times (in grocery stores, at work, at family gatherings, in the bathroom, etc). Nothing will destroy your ally credibility like someone seeing you take off your ally cap (e.g., tossing around, or consenting to, homophobic language when you think "no LGBTQ people are around").
- **Willing to ask questions, admit I'm wrong, and keep learning** -- Safe Zone workshops are a great time to do this, but an ally's learning isn't limited to a few hour experience. Do your best to stay current on events, learn to be comfortable admitting you don't know something, or that you're wrong, and never stop asking questions!
- **An amplifier for the voices of LGBTQ people, but not speak on their behalf** -- no one person can speak for an entire group of people, so try your best not to. Use phrases like "in many cases" or "a lot of the time" instead of "all" or "every ___ person." Remember, only the sith deal in absolutes. A great saying to keep in mind is that a good ally is like a really expensive sound system: they amplify the voices of marginalized people *without distorting them*.
- **Understanding when LGBTQ-identified individuals aren't comfortable with me** -- as an ally, you should do your best to support queer spaces and events, but know that you shouldn't feel entitled to be there, or to be every queer-identified person's ally. Some people have had terrible experiences with straight/cis people, so respect that and be understanding.
- **Conscious of my own privilege, prejudice, and dispositions** -- guess what, there's a *really good* chance you have a bit of homophobic or transphobic-ness packed down inside you somewhere. That's normal (it's how you were socialized). Make sure you're cognizant of these things, and do your best to address and unpack them over time, so they are less likely to inadvertently color your experiences or negatively influence your interactions with members of certain groups.

I hereby agree to all of the guidelines for being an ally set forth above, and pledge to be the most all-star LGBTQ ally I can be.

Ally Name

Ally Signature

Date



How to be an Trans* Positive Ally

Trans* positive tips!

Respect someone's gender identity.

Address the individual as they wish to be addressed, using the name and the pronouns they prefer. Also remember that not all gender non-conforming people identify as transgender, some may identify as Genderqueer, androgynous, or other labels – respect their choice.

(Example: Jane has been your friend since grade school. However, Jane would like you to now use the name Jimmy and male pronouns.)

Use their preferred name and pronouns and if you make a mistake don't over apologize just follow the mistake with the correct name or pronoun and move on.

Respect individuals' privacy.

Many transgender people are not “out” about their transgender status **do not out them**.

When a transgender person tells you of their transgender status they are trusting you with personal information, to tell others without their approval of it is a betrayal of their trust. No transgender person is obligated to reveal their status as transgender; keeping one's trans-status to one's self is not hiding anything. Do not refer to people in the past tense unless you are sure you can use their current name and pronoun, when in doubt, bring it all to the present tense.

Do not make a transgender person feel fake

Do not refer or compliment a transgender person for looking like a ‘real man’ or a ‘real woman’ or say things like ‘you look so natural’. Though you may mean well using terms ‘real’ or ‘natural’ can make transgender people feel or think you believe them to be fake or unnatural.

Good rule of thumb: Do not make any comments or compliments to a transgender person that you wouldn't also make to a non-transgendered person.

Do not assume transgender people have a choice.

Do not assume someone is transgender by choice. Although transpeople must make a decision to go through hormone replacement therapy or seek medical transitioning they did not choose to be transgender.

Do not assume that transgender people are queer or kinky.

Do not assume that a transgender person is gay or bisexual, though they are incorporated under the umbrella of LGBTQ many, many transgender people are straight. Do not assume that a transgender person is promiscuous or fetishistic. ***Gender identity is not the same as sexuality.***

Don't not ask about their 'real name' or 'what their genitals look like'.

