

Glossary of Terms

2SLGBTQ+

Two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer or questioning, and other orientations and identities.

AFAB

An acronym for assigned female at birth. Refers to birth assignment, not gender identity.

AMAB

An acronym for assigned male at birth. Refers to birth assignment, not gender identity.

Allosexual

A person who experiences sexual attraction.

Aromantic

A person who experiences little or no romantic attraction to people of any gender

Asexual

A person who experiences little or no sexual attraction to people of any gender.

BIPOC

An acronym for Black, Indigenous, Person of Colour.

Cis/Cisgender

A person whose gender identity is in alignment with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Coercive Feminization

A term coined in 2014 by Faelix Kayn that speaks to the negative attitudes, expressed through ongoing-historical erasure, control, cultural hate, individual and state violence, and discrimination directed toward trans men and AFAB nonbinary people. The specific intersection of misogyny and transness while not being a woman.

This phrase provides a much needed addition to “women and femmes” as it does not require the coercively feminized person to identify as “femme” (which is frequently misgendering).

Deadname

A former name of a gender diverse person which they do not use currently. “Deadnaming” refers to when someone calls a gender diverse person by their assigned name, rather than the name they go by currently. This is often very upsetting.

Gender diversity

An umbrella term that is used to describe gender identities that demonstrate a diversity of expression beyond the cis binary framework.

Gender fluid

A term used to describe someone whose gender fluctuates.

Gender Non-Conforming

Sometimes refers to gender variant or genderqueer individuals. The state of not adhering to gender norms expected of one’s gender.

Neurodiversity

A concept that recognizes that neurological differences like autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are the result of normal, natural variations in the human genome.

Nonbinary

An umbrella term for gender identities that fall outside of the man-woman binary. This can include but is not limited to agender (no gender), demi-gender (some connection to a gender), bigender (two genders), multigender (several genders), etc. Nonbinary itself is also used as a gender itself.

Passing

When a gender diverse individual is read as their gender rather than the gender they were assigned at birth, with their transness not being suspected/assumed.

Queer

An umbrella term used and reclaimed by some who’s romantic and/or sexual orientations and/or gender identities fall outside of cisgender/straight/allosexual norms.

Questioning

A period where a person explores their own sexual identity, orientation, and/or gender.

Stealth

A phrase that refers to when a gender diverse person passes as cisgender and is not out about their transness.

Tokenism

The practice of making only a perfunctory or symbolic effort to do a particular thing, especially by recruiting a small number of people from underrepresented groups in order to give the appearance of sexual or racial equality within a workforce.

Trans

An umbrella term referring to people whose gender differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. “Trans” can mean transcending beyond, existing between, or crossing over the gender spectrum. It includes but is not limited to people who identify as transgender, transsexual, nonbinary or otherwise gender diverse.

Transition

Refers to a range of social, legal, and/or medical changes that some trans people may pursue to affirm their gender identity.

Transmisogyny

Negative attitudes, expressed through cultural hate, individual and state violence, and discrimination directed toward trans women and AMAB

nonbinary people on the feminine end of the gender spectrum.

Transphobia

Negative attitudes and feelings and the aversion to, fear or hatred or intolerance of trans people and communities. Like other prejudices, it is based on stereotypes and misconceptions that are used to justify discrimination, harassment and violence toward trans people, or those perceived to be trans.

Trans man

A person who was assigned female at birth and identifies as a man.

Trans woman

A person who was assigned male at birth and identifies as a woman.

Transfeminine

A term used to describe someone who was assigned male at birth but is trans/ gender diverse and identifies with femininity.

Transmasculine

A term used to describe someone who was assigned female at birth but is trans/ gender diverse and identifies with masculinity.

Two spirit

An umbrella term encompassing gender and sexual diversity in Indigenous communities. Two Spirit people often serve integral and important roles in their communities, such as leaders and healers. There are many understandings of the term two spirit, and this English term does not resonate for everyone. Two spirit is a cultural term reserved for those who identify as Indigenous.