**A GLOSSARY OF LGBTQ+ TERMINOLOGY**

*SEXUAL ORIENTATION*

Emotional, romantic, or sexual attraction to other people. (Separate from Gender Identity)

1. **Gay** - A term used to identify a male who loves other male(s).
2. **Lesbian -** A term used to identify a female who loves other female(s).
3. **Straight** - A term used to identify a female or male who loves the opposite gender.

*CROSS TERMS*

Terms that use multiple endings.

ENDINGS: -sexual, -romantic, -phobic, -phobia

1. **Homo-** - Homosexual, sexually attracted to the same gender identity. Homoromantic, romantically attracted to the same gender identity. Gender neutral option for gay and lesbian. Homophobic, a person who practices acts of homophobia. Homophobia, the fear, hatred, or discomfort of people who are attracted to the same sex or gender.
2. **Bi-** - A person romantically or sexually attracted to more than one sex or gender, though not necessarily in the same way or to the same degree. Bisexual, biromantic. Biphobia, a fear, hatred, or discomfort of people who are attracted to more than one sex or gender.
3. **A-** - Asexual, the lack of sexual attraction or desire for other people. Asexual persons may engage in sex for various reasons but do not actively seek it out. Aromantic, the lack of romantic attraction or desire for other people. Aromantic persons may have sexual relationships but not engage in long-term romantic relationships. Aphobia, the hatred, fear, or discomfort of people who are asexual or aromantic.
4. **Pan-** - A person romantically or sexually attracted to more than one or all sexes, genders, and gender identities, though not necessarily in the same way or to the same degree. Pansexual, panromantic.
5. **Demi-** - A person who *requires* a strong emotional connection/bond in order to feel sexual or romantic attraction. Does not participate in casual sexual encounters. Very rarely feels sexually attracted to others. An emotional bond does not guarantee a sexual desire for another person, but it *must* be present for them to even consider sex.
6. **Hetero-** - Attraction to the opposite sex or gender, romantically or sexually. Heterosexual, heteroromantic, also known as straight.
7. **Mono-** - Monogamy, monoromantic, monosexual - prefers only one sexual and/or romantic partner.
8. **Poly-** - Polygamy, polyromantic, polysexual - prefers or has the capacity for more than one sexual and/or romantic partner.

*SEX*

The biological composition of a physical body.

Male, Female, Intersex.

1. **Intersex -** Persons born with a variety of differences in their sex traits and reproductive anatomy. This includes differences in genitalia, chromosomes, gonads, internal sex organs, hormone production, hormone response, and/or secondary sex traits.

*GENDER IDENTITY*

The concept of self as male, female, a blend of both, or neither. How individuals present, perceive and present themselves, what they call themselves. Can be the same or different from sex assigned at birth.

1. **Transgender** - One whose gender identity is different from their assigned sex at birth.
2. **Trans Man -** A transgender person who now identifies as male instead of the assigned sex at birth.
3. **Trans Woman -** A transgender person who now identifies as female instead of the assigned sex at birth.
4. **Cisgender -** One whose gender identity is the same as their assigned sex at birth.
5. **Gender-Fluid -** A person who does not identify with a single fixed gender, sometimes from day to day, week to week, month to month.
6. **Gender-queer -** Typically a person who rejects notions of static categories of gender and embrace fluidity of gender identity and sometimes (not always) of sexual orientation. May see themselves as both male and female, neither, or falling completely outside of both categories.
7. **Nonbinary -** A person who does not identify exclusively as male or female. May identify as both, somewhere in between, or outside both categories. Many can identify as transgender, though not all nonbinary persons do. An umbrella term that includes gender-queer and gender-fluid.

QUICK TIP: Pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, ze/zim) are important! Be consistent!

*ADDITIONAL TERMS:*

1. **Gender-neutral -** A term that is suitable for all persons regardless of gender or gender identity.
2. **Transition(ing) -** A process that some transgender persons may undergo in order to live more fully as their true gender. Can include social transition (changing name and pronouns), medical transition (hormone therapy or gender affirming surgeries), and legal transition (changing legal name and sex on government identity documents). Transgender people may choose to undergo some, all, or none of these processes.
3. **Dysphoria -** A state of unease or generalized dissatisfaction with life. Transgendered and non-binary persons may experience gender dysphoria when misgendered, when taking stock of their body, when dressed ‘wrong’.
4. **Misgender** - When someone uses the incorrect pronoun or otherwise assumes someone’s gender identity.
5. **Coming Out -** The process of revealing a sexual orientation or gender identity to someone who does not know. A life-long process. Typically used to refer to the first time (e.g. ‘coming out story’). In which a person acknowledges, accepts, and appreciates their gender identity or sexual orientation and shares that with others.
6. **Outing -** When someone relates another person’s gender identity or sexual orientation without permission. *Includes when you tell strangers that you have a gay friend, a trans friend, etc.* Outing someone can have serious and wide-reaching repercussions on employment, economic stability, personal safety, or religious or family situations.
7. **Ally** - Someone who is actively supportive of LGBTQ+ persons, both within and outside of the community. Does not include passive persons.
8. **Gender Binary** - The system which has been constructed into two strict categories of male or female, and relates traditional expectations upon them.
9. **Gender Expression** - External appearance of one’s gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, body, characteristics, and/or voice.
10. **Gender Fluid** - Someone whose gender expression and identity varies from day to day. May also use Gender Expansive.
11. **Agender -** Someone who does not identify with any gender.
12. **Gender Non-conforming -** A broad expression referring to people who do not behave in a way that conforms to traditional societal and cultural expectations of gender identity, or whose gender expression does not fall neatly into a category.
13. **Queer -** A term used to express a spectrum of identities and orientations that are counter to the mainstream. It is often used as a catch-all to include many people who do not identify exclusively as straight and/or who have non-binary or gender-expansive identities. Previously, this term was used as a slur, but it has been reclaimed by many parts of the LGBTQ+ community.
14. **Questioning** - A term used to describe people who are in the process of exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.