

# DEFINING 2SLGBTQ+ TERMS

## Alphabet Soup

LGBTQ2IA or 2SLGBTQ+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Two-Spirit, Intersex, Asexual

MOGAI: Marginalized Orientations, Gender Alignments and Intersex

MOGII: Marginalized Orientations, Gender Identities, Intersex

MGSRI: Marginalized Gender, Sexual and Romantic Identities

QUILT BAG: Queer, Undecided, Intersex, Lesbian, Trans, Bisexual, Asexual, Gay

## Sexuality and Romantic Attraction

Aromantic: A romantic identity meaning that someone is not attracted to anyone romantically.

Asexual: A sexuality meaning that someone is not attracted to anyone sexually.

Bisexual/Biromantic: The attraction to two or more genders.

Gay/Homosexual/Homoromantic: The attraction to someone of the same gender.

Lesbian: A woman or trans-feminine person who is attracted to other women and trans-feminine people.

Pansexual/Panromantic: The attraction to people, regardless of their gender.

Queer: An umbrella term for a variety of different 2SLGBTQ+ identities.

**Sexual Orientation/Sexuality:** Refers to who someone is attracted to sexually  
**Straight/Heterosexual/Heteroromantic:** The attraction to someone of the opposite gender.

**Romantic Orientation:** Refers to who someone is attracted to romantically.

## **Biological Sex, Gender, and Gender Expression:**

**Agender:** An identity meaning without gender or neutrality around gender.

**AMAB/AFAB:** Assigned male at birth / Assigned female at birth

**Bigender:** An identity that is a combination of the gender binary.

**Biological Sex:** A designation given by doctors when someone is born based on their sex organs, hormones, and chromosomes. It is typically split up into three categories female, intersex, and male.

**Cisgender:** An adjective meaning that someone's gender does match the biological sex they were assigned at birth.

**Crossdressing/Crossdresser:** Dressing as the 'opposite' gender as a form of gender expression. Someone who does this regularly may refer to themselves as a crossdresser, however crossdresser still has negative connotations and should only be used with forethought or permission.

**Drag Queen/King:** Someone who dresses extravagantly gendered in an exaggerated way for performance.

**FTM/MTF:** Female to Male / Male to Female

**Gender:** Someone's internal sense of being a man, woman, or identity outside the binary. While socially constructed via norms, roles, and behaviours how someone identifies with them is their own and is valid.

**Gender Affirmative Surgery:** Surgical procedure(s) that change someone's body so that it may better reflect their gender. There are many different surgeries that are used to affirm someone's gender. They are typically referred to as either 'top surgery' or 'bottom surgery', though there are other surgeries used to alter secondary sex characteristics as well.

**Gender Binary:** The classification of gender into men and women (and only men and women).

**Gender Dysphoria:** The distress a transgender person may feel towards their biological sex characteristics that do not reflect their gender. Gender dysphoria is not a necessary part of being transgender, though most medical procedures do require a formal diagnosis of it from a psychiatrist, psychologist, or physician.

**Gender Euphoria:** The feeling of joy or happiness a transgender person may feel when seeing themselves as, or being perceived as, the gender they are.

**Gender Expression:** How someone externally represents their gender, this may include their hair, clothes, voice, or body. Typically described by words like feminine, masculine, and/or androgynous. Someone's gender expression may not match that typically prescribed by their gender.

**Gender Fluid:** A gender identity and form of gender expression that is not fixed and varies over time.

**Gender Queer/Gender Variant:** A gender identity (and umbrella term) for gender(s) that consist of either, neither, or a combination of the gender binary.

**Intersex:** A sex designation and umbrella term for a number of conditions that cause reproductive or sexual anatomy that does not fit into the binary of male and female.

**Non-Binary:** An identity (often used as an umbrella term) to mean a gender outside of or in-between the gender binary of man and woman.

**Passing:** The act of being perceived as the gender one identifies with.

**Stealth:** When a transgender person is living their life as their gender and chooses to not tell others that they are transgender.

**Transition:** Refers to when a person begins living as the gender they identify with. This may involve a social, legal, and/or medical transition, though not necessarily all three.

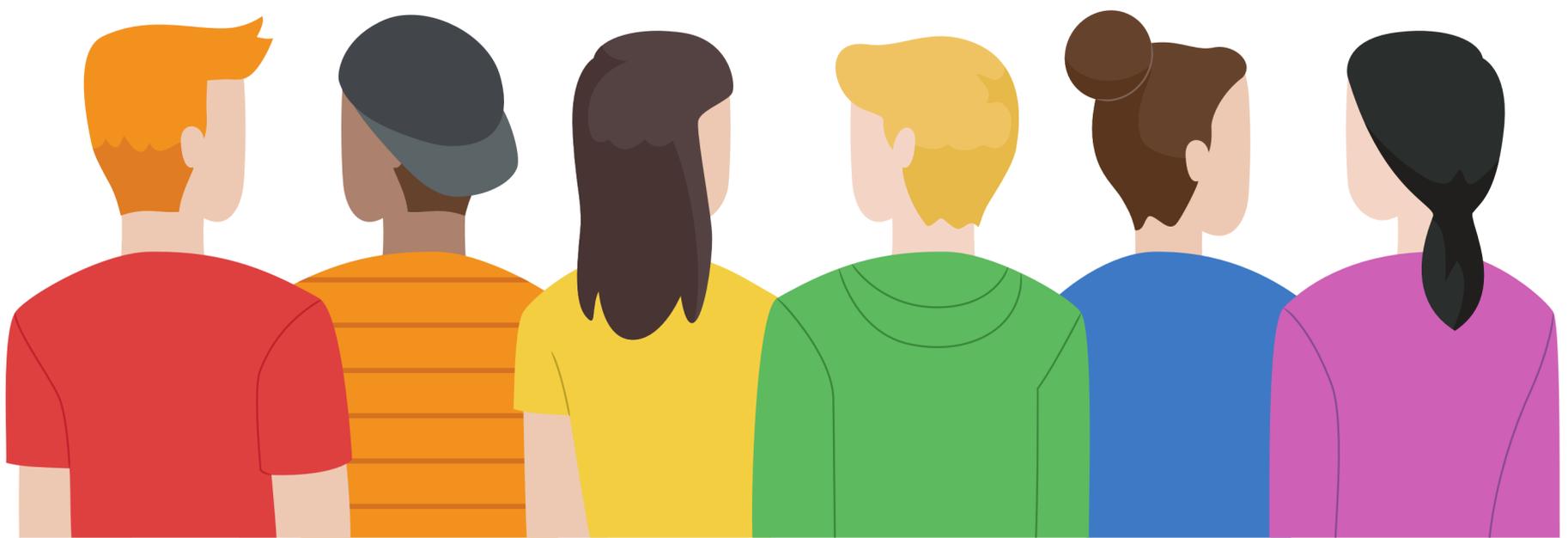
**Transgender (Trans):** An adjective meaning that someone's gender does not match the biological sex they were assigned at birth.

**Trans-Feminine:** A non-binary identity or gender expression that leans more towards femininity.

**Trans-Masculine:** A non-binary identity or gender expression that leans more towards masculinity.

**Two-Spirit:** A non-binary umbrella term for a variety of gender identities in different indigenous cultures and traditions.

**Note:** The list of genders and sexualities provided above is in no way exhaustive but defines the terms that are most commonly used.



# DEFINING AND EXPLAINING: SLURS, DEROGATORY AND OUTDATED TERMS

## Types of Discrimination

**Biphobia:** The fear and/or hatred of bi people, often causing exclusion, harassment, discrimination, and/or violence.

**Cis-Normativity:** The assumption of the gender binary and that everyone's gender matches their biological sex assigned at birth.

**Homophobia:** The fear and/or hatred of gay people, often causing exclusion, harassment, discrimination, and/or violence.

**Micro-aggression:** Small actions, words, or behaviours that are subtly and indirectly discriminatory or hurtful towards marginalized communities.

**Transphobia:** The fear and/or hatred of trans people, often causing exclusion, harassment, discrimination, and/or violence.

## The Meaning and History of Slurs:

**Dyke:** A masculine woman, typically with the implication that she is a lesbian. Dyke while a word of its own now, was originally a shortening of the word hermaphrodite (see below). The popularization of it as a slur for lesbians occurred in the early 20th century (OED Online, "dyke, n.")

**Fag/Faggot:** The slur itself currently means a gay or feminine man. However, when it was in the 15th century it was used to specifically mean the wood heretics would carry before they were burned at the stake, and later still it referred to an emblem that heretics were forced to wear. Overtime it went through a variety of meanings, most of the time it was used to refer to either a useless woman or a feminine man. In the early 20th century, in North America, the word was popularized as a gay slur (OED Online, “faggot, n. and adj.”).

**Tranny:** The shortening of the word transvestite. The word originated in the 20th century to mean a person (typically a man) who wears the clothes of the opposite sex for sexual gratification (OED Online, “transvestite, n. and adj.”). When exactly it became a slur for both crossdressers and transgender people is unclear, but it has always been meant offensively.

## Derogatory Terms:

**Hermaphrodite:** Used to mean intersex. Hermaphrodite would mean that someone has both completely male and completely female sex organs simultaneously. Hermaphrodite and/or pseudo-hermaphrodite is still used by many, including those in the medical professions (ISNA, “Is a person who is intersex a hermaphrodite?”). It is a misleading and often stigmatizing word.

**Sex-change:** A synonym for transition or transitioning that implies transgender people were not always their genders. It holds a lot of negative connotations.

**Transvestite:** See Tranny above.

# Out-Dated Terms:

Sex reassignment surgery: Originally used instead of gender affirmative surgery. It implies that there is one surgery, and that transgender people were not always their genders.

Transexual: An old word for a transgender person who has or is in the process of medically transitioning. This word is not used anymore since medically transitioning is not necessary to be trans as this word would imply.

## References:

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