

# GENDER/IDENTITY DEFINITIONS

The following are some definitions for gender identity and related terms. Keep in mind that language can evolve quickly - especially for youth culture - and that different communities may use different words. Keep listening and learning!

## **Assigned Sex at Birth**

The sex or gender assigned to a newborn by medical personnel based on external genitalia.

## **Cisgender/Cis**

A person who expresses as and identifies with the gender they were assigned at birth.

## **Gender Identity**

A person's internal sense of being male, female, or something else. Since gender identity is internal, one's gender identity is not necessarily visible to others.

## **Gender Expression**

How a person represents or expresses one's gender identity to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, voice or body characteristics.

## **Gender Nonconforming**

A term for people whose gender expression is different from societal expectations related to gender. Also used: *genderqueer*, *gender diverse*, *gender expansive and non-binary*.

## **Genderqueer**

An umbrella term with a similar meaning to non-binary. It can be used to describe any gender identities other than man and woman, thus outside of the gender binary. Genderqueer identities can include one or more of the following:

- Both man and woman
- Neither man nor woman (genderless, agender, Neutrois)
- Moving between genders (gender fluid)
- Third gender or other-gender
- Those who do not or cannot place a name to their gender
- Having an overlap of, or blurred lines between, gender identity and sexual orientation

## **Given Name/Dead Name**

A name chosen for a child at birth, usually chosen to correspond with assigned sex at birth (sometimes referred to colloquially in trans communities as a "dead name"). Anyone may choose to select and go by a different first name that better aligns with their sense of self or gender identity.



# GENDER/IDENTITY DEFINITIONS CONT.

## **LGBTQIA**

Acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and agender.

## **Misgender**

To refer to someone using a word (often a pronoun or form of address) that does not correctly reflect the gender with which they identify.

## **Non-Binary**

A term used by people who identify as neither entirely male nor entirely female.

## **Sexual Orientation**

A person's physical, romantic, emotional, aesthetic, and/or other form of attraction to others. In Western cultures, gender identity and sexual orientation are not the same. Trans people can be straight, bisexual, queer, etc. just like anyone else. For example, a trans woman who is exclusively attracted to other women would often identify as lesbian.

## **Transgender/Trans**

A broad term for people whose gender identity, expression or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth. "Trans" is shorthand for "transgender." (Note: Transgender is correctly used as an adjective, hence "transgender people," but "transgenders" or "transgendered" is often viewed as disrespectful.)

## **Transgender Man**

A term for a transgender person who identifies as a man.

## **Transgender Woman**

A term for a transgender person who identifies as a woman.

## **Two Spirit**

An umbrella term indexing various indigenous gender identities in North America. Avoid using broadly to describe non-indigenous trans people.

Definitions are from [www.transequality.org](http://www.transequality.org) and <http://www.transstudent.org/definitions>, <http://gender.wikia.com/wiki/>, with minor adaptations.

