

THE



QUEER

DICTIONARY

A design heavy dictionary with LGBTQ+ terms, stories, and experience

Researched, and designed by Mia Lew





*For the coffee table, shelf, or desk.
To give to your kids, parents, grandparents, or neighbor.
In any case, I hope whoever you give it to learns a little bit
more about you.*





A note from mia

*Good luck on your beautiful queer journey. There will be high highs and low lows, confusion and outside pressure telling you who you should and shouldn't be. And not to mention homophobic people. As a queer woman i've kind of learned to say f*ck you to that. Ride the highs, feel the lows, get in touch with what your mind and heart are telling you about yourself. Oh and also finding other queer friends to support you in your queer journey, that helps too :)*

Thank you to everyone who has helped me personally on my queer journey. Gay friends, straight friends, my parents, my exes...

I also read this in one of the articles when doing research and found it important to preface:

Remember that terms are constantly changing and that it is important to keep current and ask people what terms they prefer when you are unsure. Although it may feel confusing, using the terms that affirm a person's gender identity is no different than letting someone know that you care enough to understand things from their perspective.

Those who are cisgender may experience a type of privilege in that they do not understand what it is like to live with a gender identity that is outside the norm. Rather than trying to understand things through your own set of life experiences and views, it's important to acknowledge that you can't possibly understand what it might be like to live as a transgender person or someone with a gender identity that goes against the norm.

In these cases, it is best to defer to someone else's personal experience of what it is like to live their life and what would help them the most. If someone shares their preferred pronouns with you, keep them in mind the same way that you would if they had told you their first name.



ABROSEXUAL *adj.*: a person whose sexuality is fluid or actively changing considerably over time, both in terms of who a person is attracted to and what level of sexual and/or a romantic attraction occurs.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I've been looking for this word. I've been struggling with "being bisexual" because it seems to be so definite. There are time when I feel attraction to women, and times when I feel attraction to men. But especially over the last couple years, the form and intensity of those attractions has been in a constant state of flux. Even bisexual felt weird because sometimes I don't feel attracted to men. But give it a couple weeks and the gay comes right back out of me.* - Colin (He/Him)

ACAULT (MYANMAR) A third gender consisting of males assuming the dress and social role of women is known in Burmese slang as acault. Acaults often serve as spirit mediums in the indigenous animistic belief system. While some acault are gay, not all are.

ADVOCATE /"ad-vuh-kit,-keyt"/ *noun*: a person who actively works to end intolerance, educate others, and support social equity for a marginalized group. **2 verb**: to actively support or plea in favor of a particular cause, the action of working to end intolerance or educate others.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *For me, being loudly queer means being loudly an advocate. My goal is to be as visibly and proudly queer as possible to give comfort to those who might not be in situations where they can be loudly queer, and it's also to draw negative attention away from them and onto me instead because I can take it. I know I have a good deal of privilege being white and able boded and TME and not particularly dysphoric, and I am going to use that privilege to advocate for those who need support until the day I die. Solidarity forever* - Lily Abells (They/Them)

AGENDER /"ey-jen-der"/ *adj.*: a person with no (or very little) connection to the traditional system of gender, no personal alignment with the concepts of either man or woman, and/or someone who sees themselves as existing without gender. Sometimes called gender-neutral, or genderless.

ALLOSEXUAL *adj.*: a person who feels or has felt sexual attraction. The opposite of asexual.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *My queer sex life is so much more positive and safe than my straight one. I've been through two hoe phases in my life. The first one, when I only hooked up with men, was fueled by self sanatorium and boredom. But when I had the courage to date queer people, I feel so much more loved and cared for.* - Jaenine Santos (Any Pronouns)

2 *It's so important for allo people to use the term when speaking about their identity. Allo is not the 'norm', in the same way that straight is not the norm. Use the term. Show the asexual people around you that you value and remember their identities. Its like how if cis people don't introduce themselves with their pronouns and then a trans person shows up and says theirs, the trans person is the one having to justify their existence, and it enforces the perceived otherness of their identity.* - Kitty Desmarais (They/Them)

ALLY /"al-lie"/ *noun*: a (typically straight and/or cisgender) person who supports and respects members of the LGBTQ community. We consider people to be active allies who take action on in support and respect.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *While it's true that "allies" usually refer to cishet people supporting those in the LGBTQ+ community, I've also seen this used between LGBTQ+ members in certain situations! Especially when someone with one identity/sexuality might have more privilege than another in a given situation, it's still considered their moral responsibility to be an ally and uplift their queer comrades.* - Dan (They/Them) **2** *Older allies are one of the best support resources young queers can have in their life. Without the constant, quiet support of my best friend's mom (who lead the pride club and took us to events and talked to my parents and let me cry on her, etc etc) I wouldn't have felt half as safe in my early years of developing my identity.* - Kitty Desmarais (They/Them) **3** *They support the movement even when it is not visible.* - Sloane (They/She)

ALYHA (MOHAVE) The creation myth of the Mohave tribe speaks to a time when humans were not sexually or gender-differentiated. They recognize 4 genders: men, women, hwame (male-identified females) and alyha (female-identified males).

ANDROGYNY /"an-jrah-jun-ee"/ (androgynous) *noun.*: a gender expression that has elements of both masculinity and femininity; **2** *adj.* : occasionally used in place of "intersex" to describe a person with both female and male anatomy, generally in the form "androgynous."

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I find myself expressing myself with "androgynous" style, not because it is kind of masculine and kind of feminine, but moreso because my personal style is socially seen to be "androgynous". I like to view the term more as rejecting the norms of masculinity and femininity instead of mixing the two. - Anonymous (she/her) 2 I feel like this is the way gender expression is heading. You may feel masculine or feminine, or neither, but that shouldn't affect how you choose to express yourself. - Colin (He/Him) 3 My ideal androgyny is confusion. Androgyny*

I feel like this is the way gender expression is heading. You may feel masculine or feminine, or neither, but that shouldn't affect how you choose to express yourself.

- Colin (He/Him)

is usually thought to mean "vaguely masc" but honestly, I think androgyny should be a clusterfuck. A little masculine here, a little feminine there, just go wild, have fun, gender is fake. - Lily Abells (They/Them) 4 I used this label for myself for a while, and I associated it not only with an expression of combined masculinity and femininity but as an indistinguishable blend between the two. - Jaenine Santos (Any Pronouns) 5 The concepts of masculinity and femininity as accepted and presented by today's society are rooted in eurocentrism and colonialism. Clothes, makeup, and body modifications have no gender. However, after understanding first that both 'categories' are arbitrary and fake, expressing yourself somewhere between the societal boxes of 'masculine' and 'feminine' can be incredibly freeing for gender diverse people. - Ketty Desmarais (They/Them) 6 I think of androgyny of like an open play space when the rules of

gender don't apply - Anonymous (He/They) 7 Making old people confused whether to call you ma'am or sir. - Loz (She/Her)

ANDROSEXUAL/ANDROPHILIC *adj.*: being primarily sexually, romantically and/or emotionally attracted to men, males, and/or masculinity.

ANKOLE (UGANDA) Prior to colonization, the Ankole people in what is now Uganda elected a woman to dress as a man and thereby become an oracle to the god Mukasa.

APOTHISEXUAL: A microlabel for someone on the asexual spectrum who is sex-repulsed. (See: Asexual, Micro-labels)

ARAVANI (TAMIL NADU) A subset of the hijra tradition are the aravanis, who are born male but adopt female gender roles early in development. They take their name from the mythical deity Aravan (the brides of Aravan). In the ancient sanskrit epic Mahabharata the Pandavas could conquer Kurukshetra if they sacrificed a 'perfect' male from among themselves. Aravan, the virgin son of Pandav prince Arjuna, offered himself up for sacrifice. But he had a request: that he be allowed to spend one night as a married man. No king was willing to give his daughter in marriage only to have her widowed the next day, so finally, Lord Krishna assumed female form and married Aravan, and after a night of sexual bliss, Aravan was beheaded. Every year, during the first full moon of the Tamil month of Chittirai (April- May) Aravani's converge at Koovagam to commemorate this ancient narrative. They identify themselves with the female form Krishna assumed for his night with Aravan.

AROMANTIC /"ay-ro-man-tic"/ adj.: experiencing little or no romantic attraction to others and/or has a lack of interest in romantic relationships/behavior. Aromanticism exists on a continuum from people who experience no romantic attraction or have any desire for romantic activities, to those who experience low levels, or romantic attraction only under specific conditions. Many of these different places on the continuum have their own identity labels (see demiromantic). Sometimes abbreviated to "aro" (pronounced like "arrow").

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I love being aro and I love other aros, no matter how they label themselves. I'm aroace, but the part of my identity I feel the strongest is the aromantic part. The aromantic community has made me feel endlessly supported and I don't know where I'd be without them. Aromantic people have so much to contribute to the conversation of being queer, and in some ways, being proudly aro sometimes feels like one of the most radical acts of all. So much bullshit is tied back to love, as if to be a human being, you have to tie your worth to someone else. The aro community says fuck that, you are a whole person on your own. Conversations about amatonormativity affect everyone. The idea that you HAVE to have a partner to be a complete person? Nah man. You're already a whole person. - Lily Abells (They/Them)*

ASEXUAL /"ey-sek-shoo-uhl"/ adj.: experiencing little or no sexual attraction to others and/or a lack of interest in sexual relationships/behavior. Asexuality exists on a continuum from people who experience no sexual attraction or have any desire for sex, to those who experience low levels, or sexual attraction only under specific conditions. Many of these different places on the continuum have their own identity labels (see demisexual). Sometimes abbreviated to "ace."

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I identify as ace so I have little to no sexual attraction to anyone and I don't really have a desire for sex. Instead, I am romantically attracted to others meaning my form of intimacy would be cuddling, hugging, or kissing but I have never felt a sexual urge. When I see someone attractive or I have a crush on someone I want to get to know them better because developing a connection is very important to me, and I have the desire to kiss them or for physical affection like cuddling but sex is not what I think of. I would have sex with my partner occasion-*

ally more for them if they aren't ace because I would want to make them happy and fulfill some of their needs but sex would not be a major aspect of my romantic relationships. A lot of people misunderstand ace people since asexuality is a spectrum and for this reason I only tell certain people I know I can trust and who I know are accepting. Some ace people can feel physiological arousal when being kissed or touched in sensitive areas while some feel nothing, some can feel that arousal but still don't want or desire sex. For demisexuals, they feel sexual attraction to a certain individual once they have developed a strong emotional connection. - Lauren (She/Her/Hers) 2 It frustrates me how much people simplify the ace experience. The amount of times well meaning allosexuals are like "haha you must be so glad you don't have to deal with this" kinda drives me nuts because bro... I still have a body. I unfortunately have a libido, I just don't have anyone to direct it at. Aces aren't robots. - Lily Abells (They/Them) 3 Emphasis on it being a spectrum! I personally believe more people are on the spectrum of asexuality than are aware — they're just not familiar with the idea because it's not talked about a lot. Instead, their asexuality becomes pathologized and they think there is something inherently wrong with them (something that needs to be fixed) if they have a low sex drive - Sloane (They/She)

ASHTIME (MAALE, ETHIOPIA) Historically among the Maale people of southern Ethiopia, the word ashtime referred to eunuchs who lived in the home of the most powerful spiritual or political leader, because biological women were forbidden to enter. These ashtime enjoyed privileges in return for maintaining the homestead and performing other woman-associated duties. More recently, anthropologists have discovered that the meaning of the term has broadened to include any gender non-conforming male, including unmarried or disabled men who cannot carry out traditional male roles. This morphing of meaning seems to date from the arrival of Protestant missionaries in the 1970s.



BACHA POSH (AFGHANISTAN) Bacha posh (meaning 'dressed up as a boy' in Persian) is a practice in Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan in which some families without sons will pick a daughter to live and behave as a boy. The reasons parents might want to partake in the custom vary. In Afghanistan's heavily patriarchal, male-dominated society, where women and girls are usually relegated to the home, 'bacha posh' is the one tradition allowing girls access to the freer male world. Some families consider it a status symbol, and some believe it will bring good luck for the next child to be born a boy. Under the practice, a girl dresses, behaves and is treated as a boy, with all the freedoms and obligations that entails. She can play sports, attend a madrassa, or religious school, and, sometimes crucially for her family, work. Girls chosen as 'bacha posh' usually are the more boisterous, self-assured daughters. But there is a time limit: once the girl reaches puberty, she is expected to revert to her biological gender, a transition that's not always easy.

BAKLA (PHILIPPINES) Bakla is a Tagalog term that encompasses an array of sexual and gender identities, but especially indicated a male-born person who assumes the dress, mannerisms, and social roles of a woman. While bakla have existed as a recognized third gender for centuries, more conservative influences in recent decades has marginalized them. The bakla actually developed their own language to use with each other, called swardspeak. It is a mixture of Filipino, English and Spanish and is spoken with a "hyperfeminized inflection."

To do drag requires a willingness, or even a desire, to challenge gender norms, challenge the patriarchy, look like a fool in a dress and a wig, potentially fail, and embrace the LGBT community.

- Peppermint, trans female drag performer

BALLROOM, BALL CULTURE, OR BALLROOM SCENE *noun & adj:* term to describe an underground LGBTQ+ subculture originated by young African-American and Latin American in New York City, USA, in which people walk (or compete) for prizes and status at events known as balls. Ball culture consists of balls, events that mix performance, dance, and modeling categories.. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, members of the underground LGBTQ+ community in large cities began to organize masquerade balls known as "drags" in defiance of laws which banned individuals from wearing clothes associated with the opposite gender.

Participants were and are mainly young African-American and Latin American members of the LGBTQ community. Although some balls were integrated, the judges were always white, and African-American participants were often excluded from prizes or judged unfairly. In the early 20th century, African Americans and Latinos started their own balls. Ball culture then grew to include primarily gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans Black people and Latinos.

BANGALA (DR CONGO) In the centuries before European colonists arrived, the Bangala people's animist beliefs were carried by shamans would dress in women's clothing in order to gain the ability to solve crimes such as murder.

BEAR *noun & adj:* A word for a gay man. Often used to describe "ruggedly masculine" or larger and/or hairy queer men. It is a long-standing subculture in the queer community.

BICURIOS /"bahy-kyoor-ee-uhs"/*adj.:* a curiosity toward experiencing attraction to people of the same gender/sex (similar to questioning).

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Bicurious is something that should be the norm. As a teen, figuring out your sexuality is extremely difficult if you don't experiment. Why do you have to choose or figure it out or label it anyways. - Malia (She/Her)*

BIGENDER /"bahy-jen-der"/ adj.: a person who fluctuates between traditionally "woman" and "man" gender-based behavior and identities, identifying with both genders (or sometimes identifying with either man or woman, as well as a third gender).

BINDER /" bahyn-ding"/ noun: an undergarment used to alter or reduce the appearance of one's breasts (worn similarly to how one wears a sports bra).

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Getting my first binder was so revolutionary for me! Finally seeing myself flat chested for the first time since before puberty was such a strange feeling. I immediately loved it and couldn't stop running my hands over myself to feel the flatness. - Anonymous*

BINDING adj.: the (sometimes daily) process of wearing a binder. Binding is often used to change the way other's read/perceive one's anatomical sex characteristics, and/or as a form of gender expression.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *The first time I bonded my chest, I cried. I have no clue why, just my body's reaction. - Jaenine Santos (Any Pronouns)*

2 *I have a complicated relationship with binding. While I understand why a lot of people do it (regardless of their desired gender expression), the health issues in the long run it can cause make it not worth it for my own means of physical expression. It seems like the most accessible form of dealing with chest induced gender dysphoria, but I wish there was a better way to alter the appearance of my breasts without it affecting my breathing (minus surgical removal—definitely not accessible). - Dan (They/Them)*

3 *There are a ton of different ways to bind! Binders, tape, sports bras, camis or pantyhose, compression shirts, and so much more! There's something for almost every body, so remember to be gentle on yours! Keep trying different things, especially if your current method is hurting- pain is never a good sign. I can't use normal binders anymore due to rib pain-hell, I can't even wear sports bras, because even the loosest elastic is tight enough to set my ribs popping and creaking. So I use sports tape (sometimes called trans tape, or kinesiology tape) instead! Stay strong, don't ignore any signs of discomfort your body's sending you, be aware that you watch and judge your body much more closely than anyone else (and the view from your eyes looking down past your chest is the worst angle possible), and remember, stay strong! The tits can be temporary! - Ketty Desmarais (They/Them)*

4 *The struggle of having asthma and wanting to bind is real. - Jo (They/Them)*

BIOLOGICAL SEX /"bahy-uh-loj-i-kuhl seks"/ 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 referred to as simply "sex," "physical sex," "anatomical sex," or specifically as "sex assigned at birth."

BIPHOBIA /"bahy-fo-beya"/ noun: a range of negative attitudes (e.g., fear, anger, intolerance, invisibility, resentment, erasure, or discomfort) that one may have or express toward bisexual individuals. Biphobia can come from and be seen within the LGBTQ community as well as straight society.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *The idea of "pick a side" is a huge argument in biphobia- we don't owe anyone a choice or a side on who we find attractive. - Liv Hurt (They/Them)*

2 *I've heard a lot of people say, "Oh I don't think she's really bi" or something to the effect of "They're only calling themselves bi cuz it's trendy." F off, you don't know how they really feel inside. - Colin (He/Him)*

3 *The existence of bisexuals is erased and stigmatized because people are told to chose. I am not "too straight to be gay" or "too gay to be straight" because I'm not specifically gay or straight, I'm bi. - Malia (She/Her)*

4 *With biphobia, no choice in a single partner is a good choice. This was more prevalent when I hadn't realized I wasn't cis; if I decided to be with a man, I was obviously just straight and wanting attention, and if I wanted to be with a woman, I was a confused lesbian trying to compensate for a largely heterosexual society. There's more complexity to it than that, but it's really not a great situation for any bi person to have to deal with regardless. The infighting within the community sometimes makes being bisexual all the more isolating. - Dan (They/Them)*

5 *All queer identities experience hate, prejudice, and intolerance, but Biphobia's an odd one, because it's so prevalent within the community itself. Similar to aphobia and dismissal of MOGAI identities, the queer community isn't always as accepting as they should be. But it's not always obvious, and sometimes, that can hurt more. A bigot on the street calling you a slur is one thing. You can't change that persons mind, and their opinion doesn't mean jack shit. But when one of your queer friends casually implies you're more likely to cheat, or someone proudly announced they're a gold-star lesbian, or a young queer confusedly questions whether your very identity excludes all trans people, it hurts in a different way. These are the people who are supposed to understand the pain of such assumptions and judgments. - Ketty Desmarais (They/Them)*

6 When I was first figuring out my sexuality, I had a lot of internalized biphobia. I was scared that if I admitted that I liked men, people might see me as a "watered-down lesbian", or someone who was just pretending to be gay. It took me a long time to accept that being proud and accepting who I was included accepting the full range of my attraction. I still don't always tell the people that I'm dating about my bisexuality right away; sometimes queer women mistake bisexuality for bicuriousity, and I don't want them to think that I'm still just experimenting or figuring things out. - Theo (He/They)

BIPHOBIC /"bi fō-bik"/ adj.: a word used to describe actions, behaviors, or individuals who demonstrate elements of this range of negative attitudes toward bisexual people.

BISEXUAL /"bahy-sek-shoo-uhl"/ noun & adj.: a person who experiences attraction to some men and women. **2** adj. : a person who experiences attraction to some people of their gender and another gender. Bisexual attraction does not have to be equally split or indicate a level of interest that is the same across the genders an individual may be attracted to.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: Most people don't have a 50/50 split. Don't assume. - Liv Hurt (They/Them) **2** I am bisexual in that I am attracted to all genders, men and women and nonbinary. I can feel romantic attraction to men, women, and non-binary because I am biromantic. - Lauren (She/Her) **3** Always a bit of controversy with this definition. I think more so now than it used to be (at least in an obvious way), being bisexual has expanded to meaning attraction to all or any given amount of genders (so long as it's 2 or more). However, someone will always tell you something a little different when you ask what it means. - Dan (They/Them) **4** I have thought a lot about whether to identify myself as bisexual or pansexual, but I decided on bisexuality because my attraction is different for different genders. For masc people (especially cis guys), the attraction takes time to form and I generally have to know them and form an emotional attachment first. For more femme people, I often feel immediate physical attraction. I have also contemplated the potential of the word to exclude

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people who don't fit into the gender binary, but I prefer to think of the "bi" in bisexual to mean "2 or more" rather than just 2. - Theo (He/They)

BISSU (INDONESIA) The Bugi people of southern Sulawesi recognize three sexes (male, female, intersex) and five genders: men, women, calabai, calalai, and bissu. Bissu are considered a "transcendent gender," either encompassing all genders or none at all. The bissu serve ritual roles in Bugi culture and are sometimes equated with people such as priests.

"BROTHERBOYS"+"SISTERGIRLS" (ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN) In Australia, indigenous transgender people are known as "sistergirls" and "brotherboys". As in some other native cultures, there is evidence that transgender and intersex people were much more accepted in their society before colonization. Now, there are more stigmas attached. But through an increasing number of support groups specifically aimed at sistergirls and brotherboys, who have their own unique psychological and medical needs, perhaps times will change again.

BOTTOM SURGERY /"bot-uhm sur-juh-ree"/ noun: gender-affirming surgery that changes a person's genitals to those of a different sex.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Bottom line (no pun intended), I wish this was more accessible to the folks who need it. Medical transition, while not necessary for all trans people (including myself), is crucial to feeling at home in their body for some, and they should have reasonable means of achieving that wholeness. - Dan (They/Them)*

BURRNESHA (ALBANIA) First documented in the 1800s but traced back to the 1400s, Northern Albania's burrneshas ("sworn virgins") are female sexed individuals who take a vow of chastity and wear male clothing in order to be viewed as men in the highly patriarchal society. The tradition exists to a smaller extent in Kosovo, Serbia, and Montenegro. The tradition is dying out: There are believed to be fewer than 50 sworn virgins left in the Balkans.

BUTCH /"booch"/ 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 claimed as an affirmative identity label.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Butches are everything to me. I love butches more than anything. Every time I see a butch living their life, my lifespan extends. That's my ideal presentation. Butches are the goddamn backbone of this community. - Lily Abells (They/Them)* **2** *I find "butch" to be a really empowering word for myself. I am a person who was assigned female at birth, but I've always tended towards masculine clothing and felt so uncomfortable in traditionally feminine roles. That carries all of this baggage with it though, especially as a bisexual person, I have felt this pressure to be attractive to both queer people and straight guys, and to be honest straight guys are usually not very open to dating someone like me. It was a real eye opener coming to college and meeting and dating other butch people for the first time. I finally felt like I had found other people who felt the same way I did, and experienced the world in a similar way. I felt it was finally ok to be who I was without trying to be attractive for somebody else. I have recently started using a new name and pronouns, and now I am not sure whether to continue to identify myself as butch. I feel like "soft butch trans guy" has a nice ring to it, though. - Theo (He/They)*

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- Dan (They/Them)



CALABAI, AND CALALAI (INDONESIA) The Bugi people of southern Sulawesi recognize three sexes (male, female, intersex) and five genders: men, women, calabai, calalai, and bissu. Calabai are biological males who embody a feminine gender identity. Calalai are biological females who embody a male gender identity.

CISGENDER /"siss-jendur"/ *adj.*: a gender description for when someone's sex is assigned at birth and gender identity corresponds in an expected way (e.g., someone who was assigned male at birth, and identifies as a man). A simple way to think about it is if a person is not transgender, they are cisgender. The word cisgender can also be shortened to "cis."

CISNORMATIVITY *noun*: the assumption, in individuals and in institutions, that everyone is cisgender, and that cisgender identities are superior to trans identities and people. Leads to the invisibility of non-cisgender identities.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I find myself using language that upholds this assumption, and it's definitely something I have to work on. Just cuz you're gay don't mean you know everything about LGBTQ+ culture.* - Colin (He/Him)

CISSEXISM *noun*: behavior that grants preferential treatment to cisgender people, reinforces the idea that being cisgender is somehow better or more "right" than being transgender, and/or makes other genders invisible.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I have recently changed my name and pronouns to better fit my gender. It's really early on the process, so I have really only told close friends and family so far. I realized that I am so scared to go beyond that because it will mean being very visibly trans, and giving up the cissexism privilege that I've experienced all my life. I'm graduating soon, and I'm trying to look for jobs and a place to live, and (even though it shouldn't) I know this could have a really big impact on that. I know it will be worth it because I will get to live my life as the person I am instead pretending to fit someone else's ideal for me, but it's difficult to take that first step!* - Theo (He/They)

CLOSETED /"kloz-i-tid"/ *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)

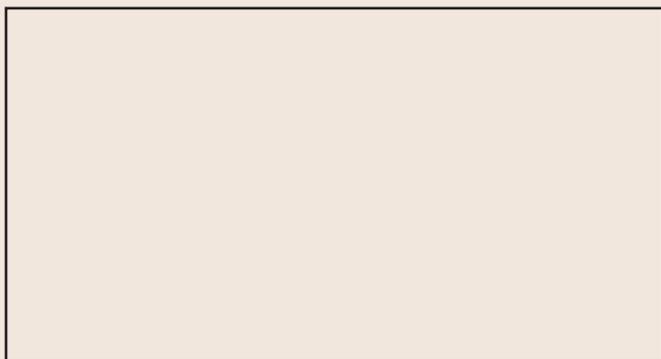
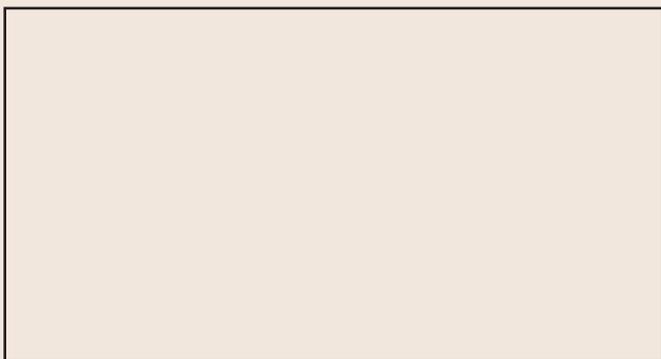
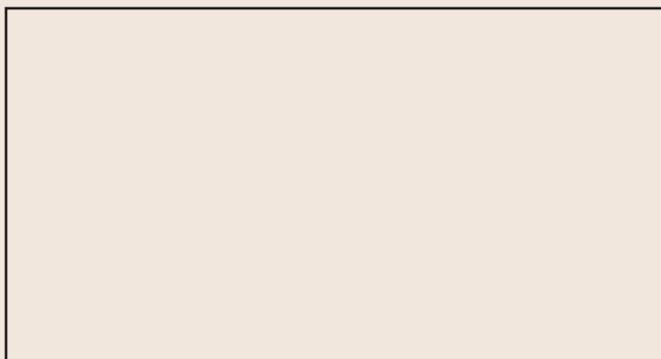
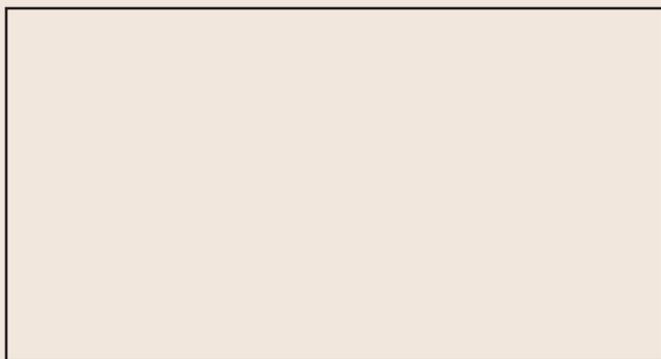
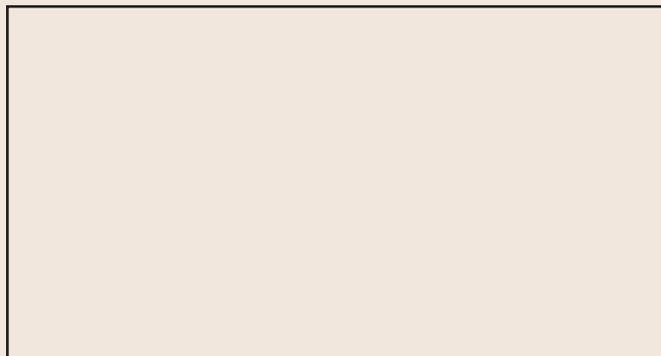
COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I am still closeted to the majority of people since I've only come out to certain friends that I trust and practically all of them are queer too since I know they will be accepting or allies who also are accepting and I can be myself around them without worrying about being judged, rejected, or attacked for my sexual orientation.* - Lauren (She/Her) **2** *There's sometimes some negative feelings towards closeted individuals, especially within the community. A sentiment definitely exists that if you're not "out" where you can face discrimination or the hardships of being LGBTQ+, your identity isn't as valid. Everyone's reasons for remaining closeted should be respected, and the validity of one's identity shouldn't revolve around how much suffering you can go through.* - Dan (They/Them) **3** *The closet is an interesting concept to me. Coming out is something we have to do over and over as queer people. When you meet a new person, when you start a job, people assume straight as the norm, it's heteronormativity! You are forced into the closet again and again and have to push your way out each time. Some people choose not to, or are out at home but not at work. The closet is just where straight people put us based on their own assumptions.* - Anonymous (He/They)

Coming out, and explaining to the world who you are can be extremely difficult.

Maybe drawing it is easier?

What colors and shapes best represent your identity? Try creating your own identity flag!

Come back in a few months and draw a new one. See how your identity has changed.



COMING OUT /"kuhm-ing-out"/ *noun*: the process by which one accepts and/or comes to identify one's own sexuality or gender identity (to "come out" to oneself). **2 verb**: the process by which one shares one's sexuality or gender identity with others.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Coming out is a beautiful, scary, on-going process that holds multitudes of feelings and experiences. My perception of how coming out is portrayed in media is that it often does not capture the wide range of experiences people have. I originally came out to my friends and family a few years ago, but I still come out daily. For me, it's a continuous journey of breaking down the heteronormative concepts I have internalized. As I break these down, I shed layers of things I thought were true to me, but were actually societal expectations. Through this, I come out to myself quite often as I find new levels of queerness within myself. And in this journey, I work through how coming out to others will feel, if I am safe to do so, and know that I am valid no matter the reaction. It's exciting, it's hard, it's freeing, and I love myself more for it!* - Rachel Gorban (She/Her) **2** *I first came out when I was 13, but it wasn't really my choice, it was something that my family kind of sprung on me. It didn't go as well as I would have hoped, and it's taken my parents especially a long time to accept the fact that I was queer. But, recently, with my new name and pronouns, I came out to my family again, this time on my terms. I've grown so much as a person over that time, I know that I can be who I am whether my family sees me that way or not. So, for me, this was more of a celebration of who I am, something very exciting that is happening in my life that I wanted to share with the people close to me.* - Theo (He/They)

CROSS-SEX HORMONE THERAPY *noun*: the administration of hormones for those who wish to match their physical secondary sex characteristics to their gender identity.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Hormone therapy was the most important part of transitioning for me. It helped me look more like the image I had of myself in my head. Shaving my face sucks but it's worth it.* - Kap (They/Them)

COMPULSORY HETEROSEXUALITY: /"kuhm-puhl-suh-ree het-er-uh-sek-shoo-al-i-tee"/ *noun & adj*: also known as comphet, the notion that heterosexuality is the only valid sexuality and that everyone should be/is expected to be straight. This is harmful to queer, trans, and/or non-cisgender folk and erases and demonizes these identities while simultaneously trying to force us to adopt a system where we must perform straightness and cisness.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I grew up Mormon and this concept had a huge hold over me until this year. I would say I was Bi but would never date women or queer people. Then being in a "straight/cis passing" relationship would make me feel super dysphoric and uncomfortable with myself. I look at pictures of myself from even just like 2 years ago and I want to hug that person so bad because they look I lost.* - Ky (They/Them) **2** *One word damaging lol. Growing up picking boys to have crushes on while watching ny girlfriends and telling them how their boyfriends weren't shit I was always told "just wait until.." "he's really cute you really don't think so". Constantly being told my family and friends people in my own community saying that eventually I will be attracted to a man, and constantly getting weird looks or comments when I say i don't find a man attractive and don't center my life around men. Making me question myself, was there something wrong with me? Why can't I like men its what im "supposed to do" along with having children. I constantly felt I had to just try liking guys, I thought theres no way I can't like them because I was told it would happen eventually.* - Anonymous (They/She)

CONSTELLATION /"kon-stuh-ley-shuhn"/ *noun*: a way to describe the arrangement or structure of a polyamorous relationship.

CROSS-DRESSER /"kraws-dres-er"/ *noun*: someone who wears clothes of another gender/sex.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *NOT analogous with being trans, though people who are trans can also cross-dress.* - Dan (They/Them)



DEADNAME /"ded-neym"/ *noun*: name assigned at birth that the individual does not identify with. Deadnames reflect the idea that the name is no longer how the person identifies, hence the word "dead." Being deadnamed (called by a deadname) can cause trans people to experience dysphoria.

DEMIGENDER *noun*: a person who feels a partial connection to particular gender identity. Examples of demigender identities include demigirl, and demiboy, and demiandrogyny

DEMIFEMALE *noun*: An identity that describes someone who identifies with both the Female and Agender genders. They do not necessarily identify with both equally, but always identify with both and only Female and Agender or partly female.

DEMIMALE *noun*: An identity that describes someone who identifies with both the Male and Agender genders. They do not necessarily identify with both equally, but always identify with both and only Male and Agender or partly male.

DEMIROMANTIC *adj.*: little or no capacity to experience romantic attraction until a strong connection is formed with someone, often within a sexual relationship.

DEMISEXUAL *adj.*: little or no capacity to experience sexual attraction until a strong connection is formed with someone, often within a romantic relationship.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *This is a term I discovered more recently and before knowing it was a thing I felt like something was wrong with me and often felt confused if I was asexual which were tough feelings to have. - Anonymous (She/Her) 2 I feel like being demisexual is more common than people think it is. - Sloane (They/Them) 3 Finding this term was really important to me, because I can't really find someone sexy if I don't know them and have a connection with them.*

DILBAA [NAVAJO] Dilbaa refers to a female-born person with a more masculine spirit. Both are considered to encompass both genders in one person.

DRAG KING /"drag king"/ *noun*: someone who performs (hyper-) masculinity theatrically.

DRAG QUEEN /"drag kween"/ *noun*: someone who performs (hyper-) femininity theatrically.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *SLAYED ABSOLUTELY SLAYED, they perform, often in queer bars through comedy and lip syncing while dressing in hyper feminine and sometimes masc-fem clothing, but often highly stylized. - Anonymous (He/Him/His)*

DRAG SHOW /"drag shoh"/ *noun*: an event where drag stars perform.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Happiest place on earth. - Anonymous (He/Him/His)*

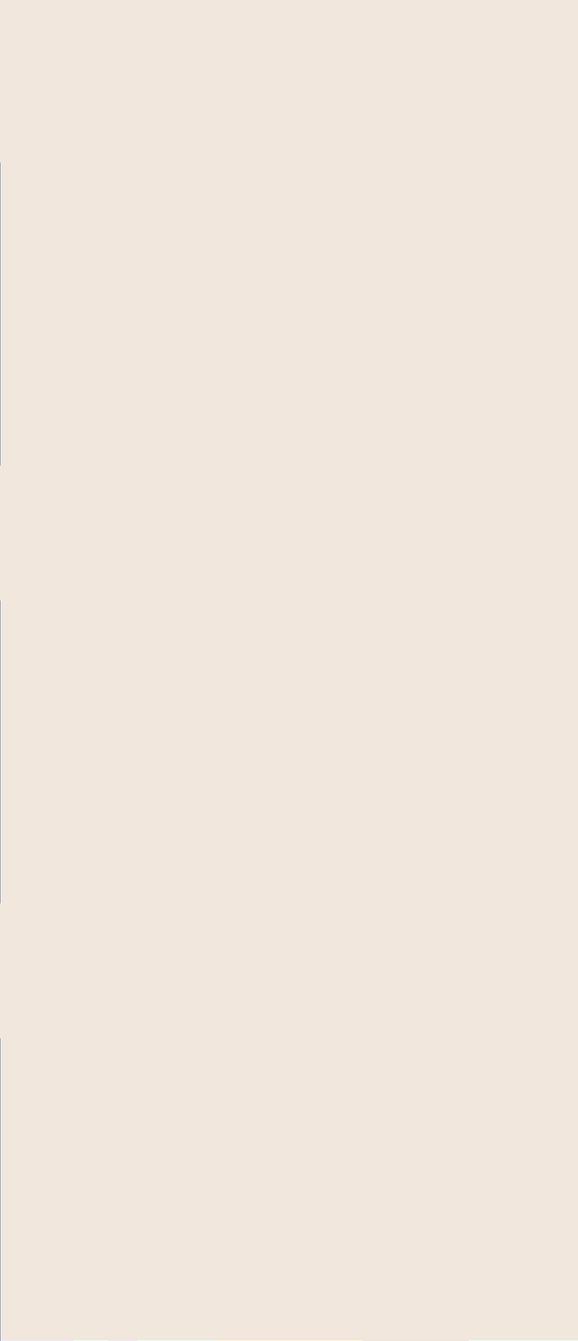
DYADIC /"dahy-ad-ik"/ *adj.*: individuals who are born with chromosomes, a reproductive system, and sexual anatomy that fit into the prevailing standard for "female" or "male" individuals (i.e., people who are not intersex).

DYADISM OR BINARISM /"bahy-nar-i-tee"/ *noun*: the societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that assume that there are only two "biological" or "natural" sexes—female and male. Dyadism/binarism privileges dyadic people and leads to prejudice and discrimination against people with intersex variations.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Personally why I think the idea of biological sex categorization into "female" or "male" should be done away with altogether. I understand that putting people with common biological traits into neat categories can be helpful for organization, but when those existing categories actively harm those who don't or cannot fit within them, then binarism is a flawed term/execution in practice. - Dan (They/Them)*

DYKE /"dahyk"/ *noun*: referring to a masculine-presenting lesbian. While often used derogatorily, it is also reclaimed affirmatively by some lesbians and gay women as a positive self-identity term.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I love. - Jaenine Santos (Any Pronouns)*



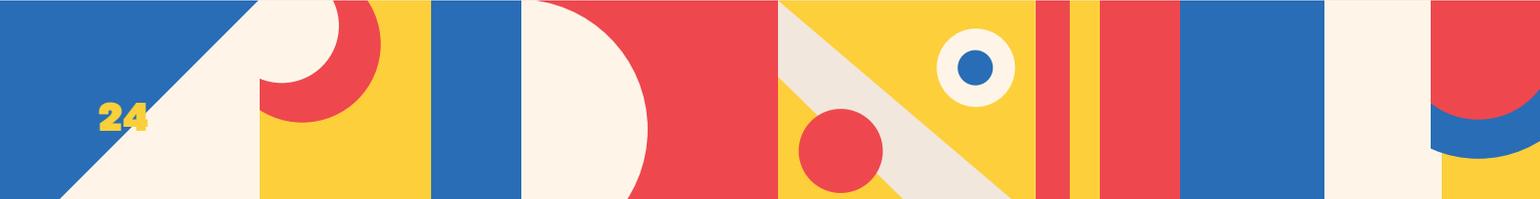
EMOTIONAL ATTRACTION /"ih-moh-shuh-nl uh-trak-shuhn"/ *noun*: a capacity that evokes the want to engage in emotionally intimate behavior (e.g., sharing, confiding, trusting, inter-depending), experienced in varying degrees (from little-to-none to intense). Often conflated with sexual attraction, romantic attraction, and/or spiritual attraction.

Question:

Can ace people still experience emotional attraction?

Answer:

Yes! While most asexual people have little interest in having sex, they may experience romantic attraction. Others may not. Asexual people have the same emotional needs as everyone else. Most will desire and form emotionally intimate relationships with other people.



FA'AFAFINE (SAMOA) Fa'afafine are biological males who have a strong feminine gender orientation, which the Samoan parents recognize quite early in childhood, and then raise them as female children or rather third gender children. Fa'afafine traditionally assume roles of family care, although they are present in many spheres of Somoan society: painter and writer Dan Taulapapa McMullin, artist and curator Shigeyuki Kihara poet and performance artist Brian Fuata, and fashion artist Lindah Lepou are all famous fa'afafine. Fa'afafine are not considered "gay" in Samoan culture, as they may be sexually involved with men, women, or other fa'afafine.

FAG(GO)T /" fag-uht"/ *noun*: derogatory term referring to a gay person, or someone perceived as queer. While often used derogatorily, it is also used reclaimed by some gay people (often gay men) as a positive in-group term.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I feel empowered lovingly calling myself a fag when so many people (men especially) have called me this as an insult. - Colin (He/Him) 2 My fave word. - Jaenine Santos (Any Pronouns) 3 I use this term among my gay friends when were chatting but if anyone outside of the community were to say it, it's on sight. - Anonymous (He/Him)*

FAKALEITI (TONGA) Similar to the third gender traditions in Samoa and Hawaii, the Tongan fakaleiti a biological males who adopt feminine dress, mannerisms, and social roles. They do not necessarily consider themselves to be transgender or gay, which are considered strictly Euro-American constructs that do not apply.

FAMILY OF CHOICE /"fam-uh-lee uhv chois"/ The circle of friends, partners, etc. that people who are LGBTQIA+ choose to associate with because they provide validation, support, and a feeling of belonging that they may be missing in their biological family.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *My group of friends consists of 9 queer (+1 ally) teens. The experiences I share with them I literally cannot share with my straight friends because they do not understand the entirety or weight of situations. - Malia (she/her) 2 I have a family of choice that consists of my friends that I have come out too and I know I can trust them. They are very supportive and I can be my true self around them without fear or feeling like I don't belong. I don't have to explain myself around them or worry that they won't understand or treat me differently. - Lauren (She/Her) 3 Ever wondered why gay people flock to media about found-family, groups of unlikely allies who bond through their circumstances and become incredibly close? Look no further than the family of choice. We tend to find each other, even without realizing it. A friendgroup starts middle school as a bunch of assumed allocishets, and by their high school graduation three of them are trans, two are lesbians, half are bisexual, and two are poly or ace? It just happens. Its unfortunate but common that the families given to us at birth or in childhood sometimes leave us, disapprove of us, or otherwise make it difficult to be around them and feel appreciated, and thats part of why such close knit queer relationships form between friends and partners, eventually creating the family of choice. - Ketty Desmarais (They/Them) 4 CHOSEN FAMILY <3 - Anonymous (He/Him/His) 5 My chosen family is a group of friends that I've known since elementary school. Growing up queer in a conservative area and coming to terms with that- was tough. Going through that together made us incredibly close, and I know that I'll always have their support. - Charlotte (She/Her)*

FEMALE-TO-MALE (FTM) /"fee-meyl to meyl"/ *adj*: referring to people who were assigned female at birth but who identify as male. This may or may not involve changing the body through medical procedures or surgeries.

***As a femme, I sometimes
feel overlooked in queer
culture and used to think
I was not "gay enough".***

- Rachel Gorban (She/Her)

FEMININE-OF-CENTER /"fem-uh-nin uhv sen-ter"/ adj.: a phrase that indicates a range in terms of gender identity and expression for people who present, understand themselves, and/or relate to others in a generally more feminine way, but don't necessarily identify as women.

FEMININE-PRESENTING /"fem-uh-nin prez-uhnt"/ adj.: a way to describe someone who expresses gender in a more feminine way. Often confused with feminine-of-center, which generally includes a focus on identity as well as expression.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *This is the reality of a lot of AFAB enbies who aren't interested in getting medical procedures done to present as more androgynous. People use this as an excuse to misgender people and invalidate their gender identity.* - Sloane (They/She)

FEMME /"fem"/ noun & adj.: someone who identifies themselves as feminine, whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally. Often used to refer to a feminine-presenting queer woman or people.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I love being femme, and I have also had to work to feel valid as a feminine-presenting queer woman. As a femme, I sometimes feel overlooked in queer culture and used to think I was not "gay enough". I thought that my love of presenting feminine would not signal that I was queer. However, I've now found a lot of liberation and celebration in being femme. The clothes and makeup I wear are a reflection of the freedoms I feel, the joy of being queer. I am feminine for myself and no one else. And isn't doing what you want, wearing what you want, loving who you love, and breaking free of constraints pretty freaking gay.* - Rachel Gorban (She/Her) **2** *Being femme is apart of my sexuality and gender. Being femme is my identity I'm a femme queer (lesbian not out). Its a way of presenting myself even without makeup and sparkles.* - Anonymous (They/She)

FEMMINIELLO (ITALY) Femminiello (roughly "little man-woman") refers to biological males who dress as women and assume female gender roles in Neopolitan society. Their station in society is (or was up through the 19th century) privileged, and the rituals (including marriage to one another) was based on Greek mythology related to Hermaphroditus and Teresias (who was transformed into a woman for seven years).

FLUID(ITY) /"floo-id-i-tee"/ adj.: generally with another term attached, like gender-fluid or fluid-sexuality, fluid(-ity) describes an identity that may change or shift over time between or within the mix of the options available (e.g., man and woman, bi and straight).

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Gender and sexuality are absolutely fluid. Personally, using one word to define these parts of me (such as non-binary or pansexual) feels more limiting than liberating. I like not having labels to adhere to, which the idea of fluidity helps support.* - Sloane (They/She)

FTM / F2M; MTF / M2F abbr.: female-to-male transgender person; male-to-female transgender person.



GAY /"gey"/ adj.: experiencing attraction solely (or primarily) to some members of the same gender. Can be used to refer to men who are attracted to other men and women who are attracted to women. **2** adj.: an umbrella term used to refer to the queer community as a whole, or as an individual identity label for anyone who is not straight.

GENDER AFFIRMING SURGERY /"jen-der uh-furm sur-juh-ree"/ noun: surgeries used to modify one's body to be more congruent with one's gender identity. Also referred to as sex reassignment surgery (SRS) or gender-confirming surgery (GCS).

GENDER BINARY /"jen-der bahy-nuh-ree"/ noun: the idea that there are only two genders and that every person is one of those two.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Simply not true, especially outside of Western concepts of gender. Often associated with the ideology that gender is equivalent/should have equivalence to sex. - Dan (They/Them)* **2** *A stupid ass societal construct. - Anonymous (He/Him)*

GENDER DYSPHORIA /"jen-der dis-fawr-ee-uh"/ noun: a medical diagnosis and term to reflect the distress experienced by individuals who have a misalignment between their sex assigned at birth and the gender that they identify with internally. This means that a person doesn't feel right about their body parts, physical characteristics, or societal interactions in terms of their internal experience of gender.

GENDER EUPHORIA /"jen-der yoo-fawr-ee-uh"/ noun: gender euphoria is a psychological condition which consists of comfort or even joy when thinking about one's true Gender identity. Often accompanied by a strong desire to change one's sex to better match their identity or to be called the correct gendered language. Euphoria can be focused upon bodily attributes, treatment from others. It is possible for nonbinary people to feel gender euphoria too, for much the same reasons as binary transgender people.

GENDER EXPRESSION /"jen-der ik-spresh-uhn"/ noun: the external display of one's gender, through a combination of clothing, grooming, demeanor, social behavior, and other factors, generally made sense of on scales of masculinity and femininity. Also referred to as "gender presentation."

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Honestly? The world is a stage, and gender is my performance. - Dan (They/Them)* **2** *Gender (or the lack thereof) is like a dress up game for me everyday. When I am getting ready sometimes I will be like putting on makeup and then suddenly be like... ew wtf it's not a femme day. Sometimes it'll like switch throughout the day which is very dysphoric when I can't change my clothes/makeup right away. - Ky (They/Them)*

GENDER FLUID /"jen-der-floo-id"/ adj.: 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 some days, and more woman other days.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *The fluid gender experience here can definitely breach outside of the binary and into identities that are more associated with nonbinary labeling. - Dan (They/Them)*

GENDER FUCK: noun/adj a term for gender non-conforming people who deliberately subvert expected gender presentation

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I identify as genderfuck because I love just fucking around with my gender presentation. It's a way to say "fuck you" to people who try to tell you how to look and act. When I do it, my friends say I look "so gender." If I get weird or confused looks, it's a good day. -Kap (they/them)*

GENDER IDENTITY /"jen-der ahy-den-ti-tee"/ noun: the internal perception of 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. Often conflated with biological sex, or sex assigned at birth.

***I can call myself
genderqueer, and it feels
like I'm draping myself in
a fabulous rainbow and
saying "fuck you" to the
gender binary.***

- Theo (He/They)

GENDER-INCLUSIVE PRONOUNS /"jen-der-in-kloo-siv proh-nouns"/ *noun*: pronouns that are neutral and can be used by both transgender and cisgender people. For example, the words they, them, and theirs when used to refer to a single person are gender-neutral pronouns and should be used to refer to someone when you don't know what they prefer.

GENDER NON CONFORMING /"jen-der non-kuhn-fawr-mi-tee"/ *adj.*: a gender expression descriptor that indicates a non-traditional gender presentation (masculine woman or feminine man). **2** *adj.*: a gender identity label that indicates a person who identifies outside of the gender binary. Often abbreviated as "GNC."

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *GNC people deserve so much support. It's so hard to go out into society and present in a way that goes against how people perceive you, and it takes enormous strength. GNC people are so brave. Every time I see another GNC person, it encourages me to be a little more GNC myself. - Lily Abells (They/Them) **2** I love being gnc. -Kap (they/them)*

GENDER NORMATIVE / GENDER STRAIGHT /"jen-der-nawr-muh-tiv"/ *adj.*: someone whose gender presentation, whether by nature or by choice, aligns with society's gender-based expectations.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Being gender normative isn't a bad thing, that's just who you are. At first I was presenting female because that's how I was raised. Now that I've really done some self discovery, I'm female presenting by choice because that's truly the gender and personal expression that I feel the most comfortable with. - Elise Monroe (She/Her)*

GENDERQUEER /"jen-der-kweer"/ *adj.*: a gender identity label often used by people who do not identify with the binary of man/woman. **2** *adj.*: an umbrella term for many gender non-conforming or non-binary identities (e.g., agender, bigender, genderfluid).

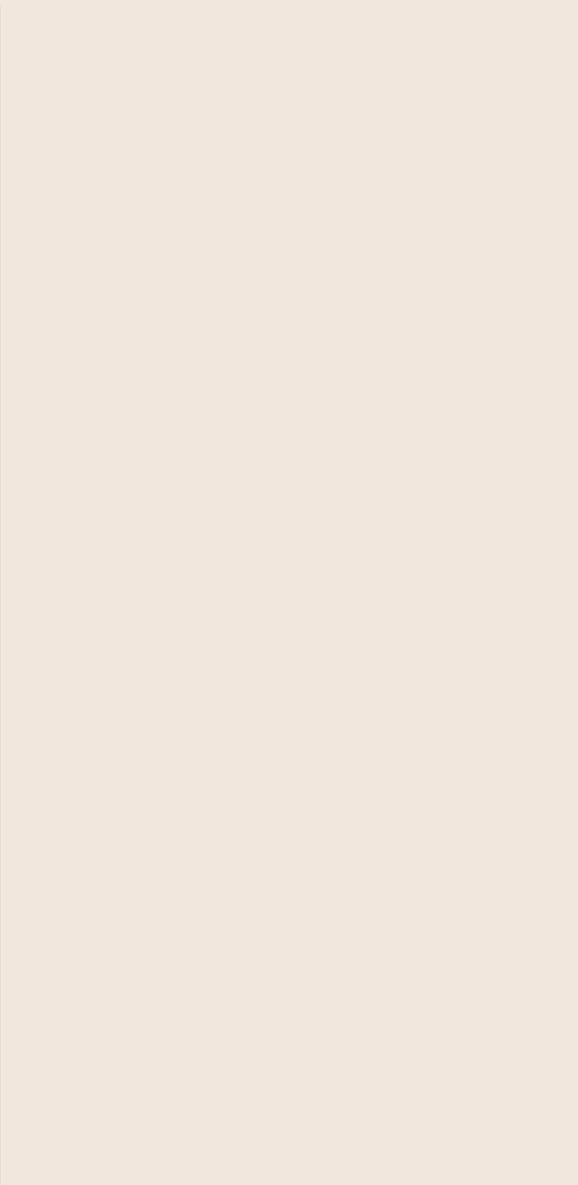
COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I find a lot of comfort in the genderqueer label. I've obsessed over so many labels for my gender -- nonbinary? Trans? Cis butch? - and they've felt right and wrong at different times.*

*Maybe there's something fluid going on, maybe I just haven't found the right words yet, but I know that I can always come home to the gender-queer label. It encompasses everything I am. My goal with my presentation is to not look like a specific gender, but to instead make strangers look at me and go "I don't know what's going on with them, but they're definitely queer" and I feel like genderqueer is the right label for that. - Lily Abells (They/Them) **2** I love the term genderqueer for myself, because it's a wonderful kind of catch-all term. I don't fit neatly into the gender binary, and honestly the way I feel about my gender changes on a daily basis. Instead of having to sort through this to find an appropriate label, I can call myself genderqueer, and it feels like I'm draping myself in a fabulous rainbow and saying "fuck you" to the gender binary. - Theo (He/They)*

GUEVEDOCHE (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) In an exceptional case, genetics seems to have created a third sex in Dominican Republic. A heritable pseudo-hermaphroditic trait was discovered by ethnographers in the 1970s, who followed the children over generations. With undifferentiated genitalia, they generally were raised as girls, but began developing male traits at puberty. Instead of changing their gender identities to male, most chose to live as a third gender called guevedoche (roughly meaning "testicles at 12") or machi-embra (man-woman). The society has accommodated the guevedoche and constructed a third gender with distinct roles for them.

I love the term genderqueer for myself, because it's a wonderful kind of catch-all term.

GYNESEXUAL/GYNEPHILIC /"guy-nuh-seks-shu-uhl"/ *adj.*: being primarily sexually, romantically and/or emotionally attracted to woman, females, and/or femininity.



HETERONORMATIVITY /"het-er-uh-nawr-muh-tiv"/
noun: the assumption, in individuals and/or in institutions, that everyone is heterosexual and that heterosexuality is superior to all other sexualities. Leads to invisibility and stigmatizing of other sexualities: when learning a woman is married, asking her what her husband's name is. Heteronormativity also leads us to assume that only masculine men and feminine women are straight.

HETEROSEXISM /"het-er-uh-sek-siz-uhm"/ *noun*: behavior that grants preferential treatment to heterosexual people, reinforces the idea that heterosexuality is somehow better or more "right" than queerness, and/or makes other sexualities invisible.

HETEROSEXUAL/STRAIGHT /"het-er-uh-sek-shoo-uhl"/ *adj.* : experiencing attraction solely (or primarily) to some members of a different gender.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *It is not a crime to be straight. Straight people certainly enjoy lots of privilege, but we shouldn't demonize people for who they are attracted to (this goes both ways). Awareness of privilege, of course, is essential. - Sloane (They/She)*

HIJRA (SOUTH ASIA) In South Asian cultures including India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, hijras are physiological males who adopt feminine gender identity, women's clothing and other feminine gender roles. In the past the term referred to eunuchs or those born intersex or with indeterminate genitalia. Most hijra do not consider themselves to be men or women or transgender, but a distinct third gender. A tradition of castration still exists but is no longer requisite to be recognized as a hijra. Though Hijras used to have high status as priestesses, they now generally live on the margins of society and many are forced to survive by begging or sex work. In India per Hindu mythology, hijras represent the half-male, half-female image of Shiva — an image symbolic of a being that is ageless and sexless. Hijras have a long recorded history in the Indian subcontinent, from the Mughal Empire period onwards. Many hijras live in well-defined, organized, all-hijra communities, led by a guru. (The word hijra is originally from Urdu, but has been adopted into Hindi. In Urdu, it is considered an epithet, and the term Khwaja Saraa is used instead). During the era of the British Raj, authorities attempted to eradicate hijras, whom they saw as "a breach of public decency." Also during British rule in India they were placed under the Criminal Tribes Act 1871 and labeled a "criminal tribe," hence subjected to compulsory registration, strict monitoring and stigmatized for a long time, after independence however they were decriminalized in 1952, though the stigma continues.

drag faq!

Can anyone be a drag performer?

Yes! Drag itself is a political statement. Drag Queen Monét X Change states, "when you step out of your apartment in the Bronx, or in Hell's Kitchen, or Tulsa, Oklahoma in drag, you're saying f—k the patriarchy and gender norms." Drag is an art form and performing of gender. Everyone is negatively impacted by societal expectations of gender. We all have something to share through drag whether you be a male, female, non binary or genderless! Gender is a construct so why not play around with it!

Who was the first drag performer?

William Dorsey Swann! Born in Maryland in 1860, Swann endured slavery, the Civil War, racism, police surveillance, torture behind bars, and many other injustices. But beginning in the 1880s, they not only became the first American activist to lead a queer resistance group; they also became, in the same decade, the first known person to dub himself a "queen of drag"—or, more familiarly, a drag queen.

When was the first drag show?

The danger and segregation of bars in the 1920s paved the way for drag balls. The first drag ball goes as far back as 1867, when both males and females at the Hamilton Lodge in Harlem dressed up and competed for awards for the best gown or feminine figure. The drag ball tradition goes back to the '20s — minus the voguing we see today. They were often house parties where Black queer people would congregate together.

HOMOPHOBIA /"hoh-muh-foh-bee-uh"/ *noun*: an umbrella term for a range of negative attitudes (e.g., fear, anger, intolerance, resentment, erasure, or discomfort) that one may have toward LGBTQ people. The term can also connote a fear, disgust, or dislike of being perceived as LGBTQ.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Something everyone in the queer community has experienced to some extent at some point in their life and its honestly terrifying when you do, but as you get older you learn how to cope with it and react in an appropriate manner. - Anonymous (He/Him/His) 2 I was internally homophobic for the majority of my young life because I was raised in an environment where that wasn't ok. I didn't care what others did but when it came to myself I thought, "there's no way I could be gay". Boy was I wrong, I just wish little me could see where I am now. - Elise Monroe (She/Her)*

I was internally homophobic for the majority of my young life because I was raised in an environment where that wasn't ok.

HOMOPHOBIC /"hoh-muh-foh-bic"/ *adj.*: a word used to describe actions, behaviors, or individuals who demonstrate elements of this range or hatred of negative attitudes toward LGBTQ people.

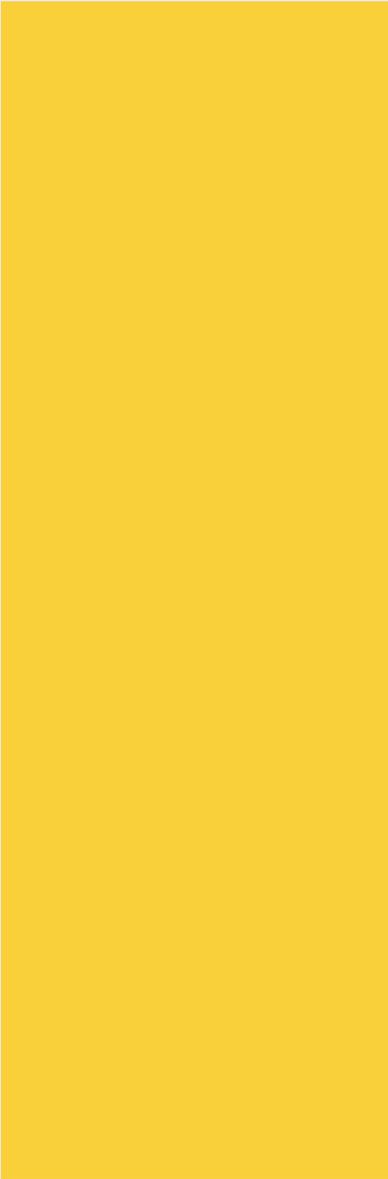
COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Actions that almost always come from someone who's questioning their sexuality, feels their masculinity is being threatened, or is insecure. - Anonymous (He/Him/His)*

HOMOSEXUAL /"hoh-muh-sek-shoo-uhl"/ *adj. & noun*: a person primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the same sex/gender. This [medical] term is considered stigmatizing (particularly as a noun) due to its history as a category of mental illness and is discouraged from common use (use gay or lesbian instead).

HOUSE (BALL CULTURE) *noun*: Coined by the first original mother of drag Crystal Labeija in Harlem in the early 1970's, houses serve as alternative families, primarily consisting of Black and Latino LGBT individuals, and are meant to provide shelter, solace and safety for those who have often been kicked out of their original homes due to being LGBT. Often named by fashion brand names, houses are led by "mothers" and "fathers" who are usually older members of the ballroom scene, who provide guidance and support for their house "children". The children of a house are each other's "brothers" or "sisters". Houses that win a lot of trophies and gain recognition reach the rank of "Iconic" or "Legendary".

Houses are meant to provide shelter, solace and safety for those who have often been kicked out of their original homes due to being LGBT+.

HWAME (MOHAVE) The creation myth of the Mohave tribe speaks to a time when humans were not sexually or gender-differentiated. They recognize four genders: men, women, hwame (male-identified females) and alyha (female-identified males).



er simply does not exist

INTERGENDER /"in-tur-jen-der"/ *noun*: refers to a person who does not experience one gender, but rather falls between male and female gender identities.

INTERNALIZED TRANSPHOBIA /"in-tur-nl-ahyz trans-foh-bee-uh"/ *noun*: feeling uncomfortable with oneself because of having transgender feelings or a gender identity that does not match one's assigned sex at birth or the gender roles of society.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Internalized transphobia can also affect how a person treats others, more specifically other trans people. It can translate into unnecessary enforcement of cisnormative values (e.g. telling others they need to "look more like" the gender they are/are trying to present as or what their biological sex supposedly dictates they should look like) and overall poor treatment of others. Both cis and trans people can have internalized transphobia. - Dan (They/Them)*

INTERSEX /"in-ter-seks"/ *adj.*: term for a combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, internal sex organs, and genitals that differs from the two expected patterns of male or female. Formerly known as hermaphrodite (or hermaphroditic), but these terms are now outdated and derogatory.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Proof that gender simply does not exist. A lot of intersex people don't even have the same anatomy — because they are viewed as "other," they're just grouped into "intersex" since they can't fit into the box of man or woman as defined by society. - Sloane (They/She)*

Intersex people are not rare, but we are often misunderstood. I urge you to get to know us. Our community has been silenced for too long. It's time for our voices to be heard and our bodies to be appreciated instead of pathologized.

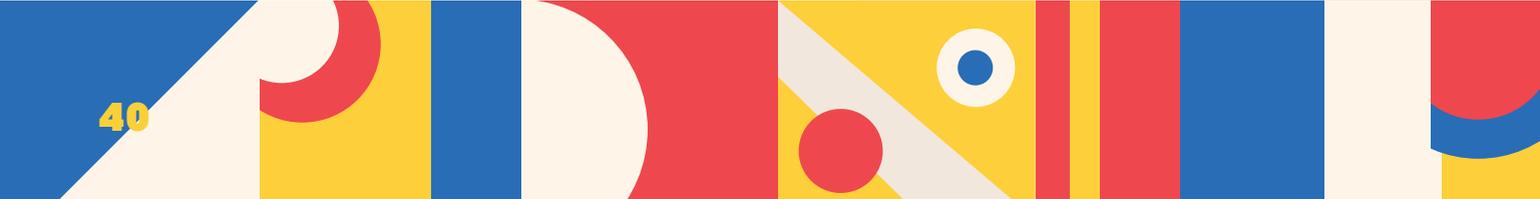
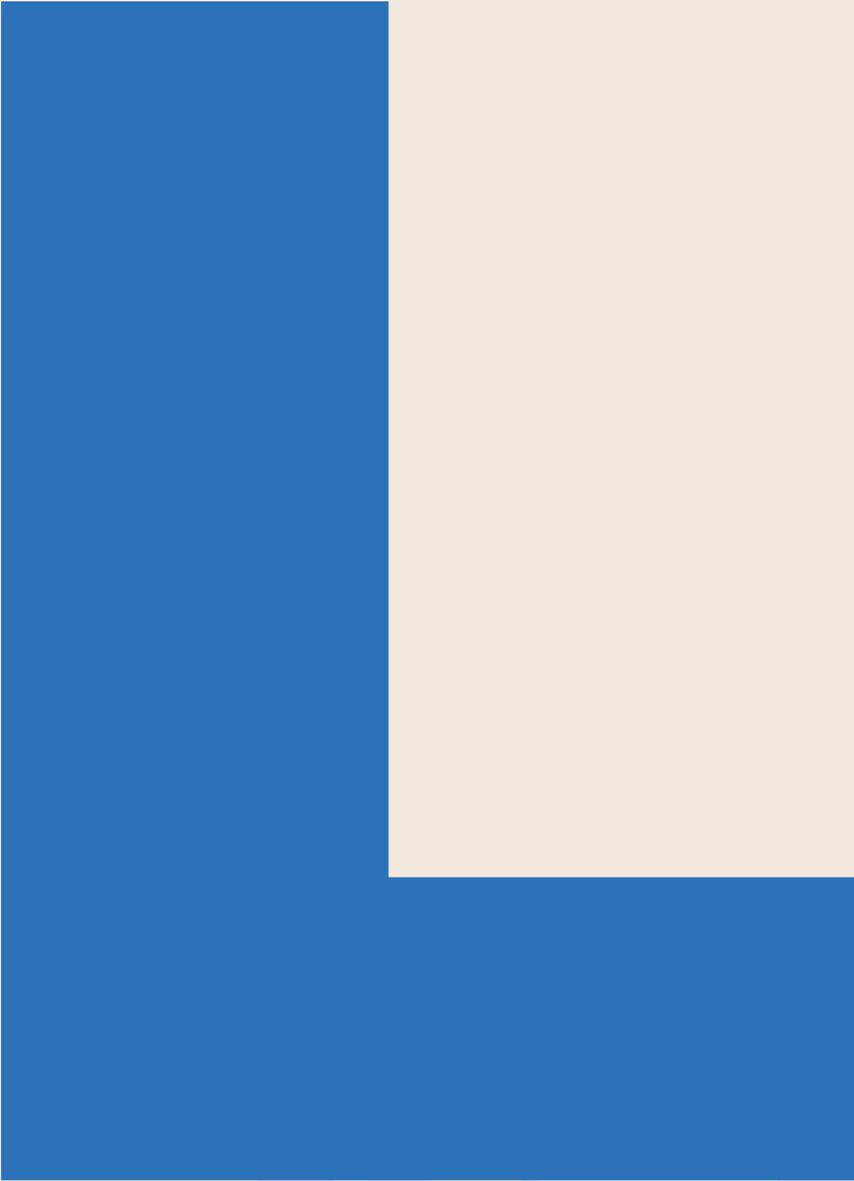
- Bria, (They/Them)



KATHOEY (THAILAND) Very loosely translated as "lady-boys," Thailand's third gender kathoeyes are known as being born male but "having a female heart," according to a common Thai saying. They are often referred to as "sago," or a second type of woman. The kathoey culture is extremely broad, encompassing drag queens and other cross-dressers (straight and gay), to effeminate gay males, on one end, and post-operative transsexuals on the other. Kathoeyes generally work in service jobs as in beauty salons and restaurants, but can be found in all professions at all levels of society. Some end up as sex workers catering mainly to tourists. Thai tradition holds that true kathoeyes are neither male nor female but inhabit the space between genders.

KÖÇEK (OTTOMAN EMPIRE) From the 17th through the 19th centuries, the köçek were a cultural phenomenon in which young men dressed in women's attire and formed traveling dance troupes who performed sexually suggestive dances. Although they were not necessarily gay, they were traditionally available to the highest male bidder. Today Köçek culture in Turkey remains, but only as a folkloric dance tradition.

Today, the term kathoey is used to cover a broad spectrum of identities. This ranges from gay men that are more effeminate and may take on a persona in performance, not unlike drag shows in the US, to trans women. It is important to note that identifying as kathoey, like other trans identities, is not dependent on the state of the body. Some kathoey undergo hormone therapies and gender confirmation surgeries, others do not.



LESBIAN /"lez-bee-uhn"/ *noun & adj.*: women and non binary people who are primarily attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally to other women and non binary people.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *The lesbian label feels so welcoming, I feel understood. I no longer have to pretend I can simply be. Its a breath of fresh air. - Anonymous (They/She)*

LGBTQI+ *abbr.*: shorthand or umbrella terms for all folks who have a non-normative (or queer) gender or sexuality, there are many different initialisms people prefer. LGBTQ is Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer and/or Questioning (sometimes people at a + at the end in an effort to be more inclusive).

LHAMANA (ZUNI) The two-spirit Zuni tradition is known as lhamana, in which a person lives as both genders simultaneously. They play a key role in society as mediators, priests, and artists, and perform both traditional women's work (pottery and crafts) as well as traditional men's work (hunting). The most famous example was We'wha, who served as the Zuni ambassador to the United States, who spent six months in Washington, D.C. where she was feted enthusiastically by the establishment who probably had no idea she wasn't born female.

LIPSTICK LESBIAN /"lip-stik lez-bee-uhn"/ *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 straight.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Although I don't think of myself as one, I've been identified as a lipstick lesbian because I look pretty straight. It's almost like a fun party trick when I tell people I have a girlfriend. - Elise Monroe (She/Her) 2 This is how I have seen myself since I was in elementary/junior high. Without lipstick lesbians in media I would have listened to other people telling me gay women are "supposed" to be masculine and that if you were femme you secretly were straight. Lipstick lesbians paved the way for me <3 - Anonymous (They/She)*

Without lipstick lesbians in media I would have listened to other people telling me gay women are "supposed" to be masculine and that if you were femme you secretly were straight.

The lesbian label feels so welcoming, I feel understood. I no longer have to pretend I can simply be. Its a breath of fresh air.



MAHU (HAWAII) Long before Cook's arrival in Hawaii, a multiple gender tradition existed among the Kanaka Maoli indigenous society. The mahu could be biological males or females inhabiting a gender role somewhere between or encompassing both the masculine and feminine. Their social role is sacred as educators and promulgators of ancient traditions and rituals. The arrival of Europeans and the colonization of Hawaii nearly eliminated the native culture, and today mahu face discrimination in a culture dominated by white European ideology about gender.

MALE-TO-FEMALE (MTF) /"meyl tuh fee-meyl"/ *noun & adj*: referring to people who were assigned male at birth but who identify as female. This may or may not involve changing the body through medical procedures.

MAMLUK (EGYPT) During the Mamluk Sultanate in what is now Egypt from the 1200s to the 1700s, young girls who were perceived to have masculine traits were celebrated and raised as boys and afforded all of the legal and societal advantages.

MASCULINE-OF-CENTER /"mas-kyuh-lin uhv sen-ter"/ *noun*: a phrase that indicates a range in terms of gender identity and expression for people who present, understand themselves, and/or relate to others in a generally more masculine way, but don't necessarily identify as.

MASCULINE-PRESENTING /"mas-kyuh-lin prez-uhnt"/ *adj*: people with a gender expression that they consider to be masculine. This includes outward expression through such things as body language, mannerisms, physical characteristics, and style. This term does not indicate anything about assigned sex at birth.

MASHOGA (KENYA, TANZANIA) Mashoga is a Swahili term that connotes a range of identities on the gender continuum. While loosely used to indicate gay men, a large proportion of mashoga are biological men who adopt the female gender early in life. They characteristically wear both men and women's clothing, but in a manner distinct to mashoga alone. They often assume female gender roles and serve a crucial role in wedding ceremonies.

METIS (NEPAL) The term meti is an indigenous term for a third gender in Nepal with a long and checkered history in the Himalayan region. They are born as males, but assume feminine dress and carriage. For the last 30 years, most Metis make their living as prostitutes. They do not consider themselves gay, but rather as a third gender that is interested in straight men. In recent years they have been the targets of violence by Nepalese police and gangs calling themselves "Maoists."

MICROLABELS: A more specific label for gender or sexuality which is a subcategory of an identity, such as identifying as asexual, but more specifically identifying as apothisexual on the ace spectrum.

MINO (BENIN) The Kingdom of Dahomey (now Benin) had an all-female regiment of female warriors called the mino (our mothers). They were unmarried and childless women who were thought to have masculine traits.

MISGENDER /"mis-jen-der"/ *noun*: calling someone by the wrong pronoun or using language that is not reflective of their gender identity.

METROSEXUAL /"me-troh-sek-shoo-uhl"/ *adj.*: a man with a strong aesthetic sense who spends more time, energy, or money on his appearance and grooming than is considered gender normative. Often used as a homophobic attack on straight men.

MLM. Short for "men who love men." An inclusive term for male- or masculine-identifying people who are attracted to other male- or masculine-identifying people.

MM. OR M. (MISTRUM). A gender-neutral alternative to Mr. or Ms. using the traditional Latin grammar.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER *I first learned this term from a nonbinary Latin scholar/linguist (@1000.jay on the TikTok) and I like it a lot more than Mx., but it's not very widespread - Kap (they/them).*

MX. (GENDER-NEUTRAL PRONOUNS) /"mix," "mux," or "schwa"/ *noun*: an honorific (e.g. Mr., Ms., Mrs., etc.) that is gender-neutral. It is often the option of choice for folks who do not identify within the gender binary: Mx. Smith is my favorite art teacher I have ever had.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Honestly, as a nonbinary person, I am surprisingly not a fan haha! It's been more performative than anything in my experience, and I'd much rather just be called by my name. - Dan (They/Them) 2 I'm planning to get an advanced degree so I don't have to deal with any of the usual titles. -Kap (they/them)*

MONOGAMY /"muh-nog-uh-mee"/ *noun*: having only one intimate partner at any one time.

MONOSEXUAL /"mon-oh sek-shoo-uhl"/ *noun & adj*: people who have a romantic, sexual, or affectional desire for one gender only. Heterosexuality and homosexuality are the most well-known forms of monosexuality.

MULTI-GENDER /"muhl-tee jen-der"/ *noun & adj*. people who identify with more than one gender. This includes people who identify as bigender, trigender, pangender, polygender, and in some cases, genderfluid.

MUXE OR MUXHE (ZAPOTEC OF OAXACA) Among the Zapotec of the Oaxacan peninsula, the muxe are generally males who either dress as women or dress as males with make-up. They may adopt "feminine" social roles such as working in embroidery, but many also have white-collar careers in Mexico. In recent decades, the term has also come to apply to gay men.

A little more about Māhū

“Before the coming of foreigners to our islands, we Hawaiians lived in aloha, in harmony with the land and with one another. Every person had their role in society, whether male, female, or māhū, those who embrace both the feminine and masculine traits that are embodied within each and every one of us. Māhū were valued and respected as caretakers, healers, and teachers of ancient traditions. We passed on sacred knowledge from one generation to the next through hula, chant, and other forms of wisdom.

When American missionaries arrived in the 1800s, they were shocked and infuriated by these practices and did everything they could to abolish them. They condemned our hula and chant as immoral. They outlawed our language, and they imposed their religious strictures across our lands. But, we Hawaiians are a steadfast and resilient people. So, despite 200 years of colonization and repression, we are still here.

To this day, māhū are still highly regarded in the Hawaiian community. Kumu Hina-Wong is an important Kanaka, who teaches at Kamehameha Schools and advocates for aloha”.

- Camaron Miyamoto, the director of the LGBT Student Services at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa



NADLEEHI (NAVAJO) The Diné (Navajo) term nadleeahi refers to that culture's traditional third gender, in which a biologically male-born person embodies both the masculine and feminine spirit

NEUTROIS /"noo-trwah, -troiz, -troi"/ A non-binary gender identity that falls under the genderqueer or transgender umbrellas. There is no one definition of Neutrois, since each person that self-identifies as such experiences their gender differently. The most common ones are: Neutral-gender, Null-gender, Neither male nor female, Genderless and/or Agender.

NEO PRONOUNS *noun*: Pronouns that do not include he, she, or they (new pronouns).

NINAUPOSKITZIPXPE (BLACKFOOT) The ninauposkitzipxpe were honored as a third gender in the North Peigan tribe of the Blackfoot Confederacy in northern Montana and Southern Alberta, Canada. Roughly translated, it means "manly-hearted woman" and defined a biological female who did not necessarily dress in a masculine mode, but was unrestricted by the social constraints placed on other women in the Blackfoot society.

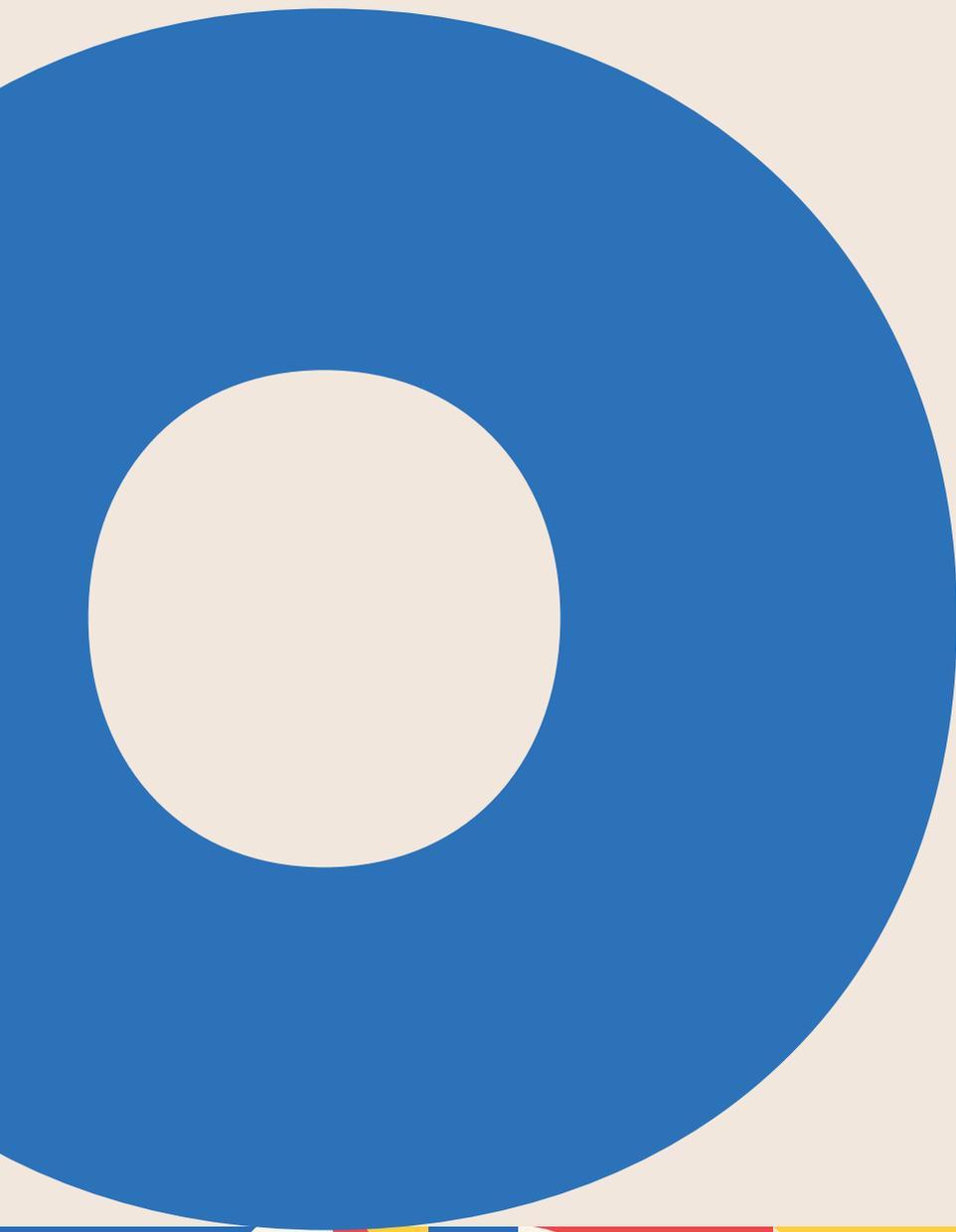
NONBINARY /"non-bahy-nuh-ree"/ *noun*: people who feel their gender cannot be defined within the margins of gender binary. Instead, they understand their gender in a way that goes beyond simply identifying as either a man or woman. Some non-binary people may feel comfortable within trans communities and find this is a safe space to be with others who don't identify as cis, but this isn't always the case.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I've always wondered if I could consider myself transgender if I'm non binary. I'm still thinking. - Jaenine Santos (Any Pronouns) 2 Definitely the favorite part of my identity, even if there's a less exact place for us within the trans community aside from bonding with other nonbinary people. Growing up and feeling alienated from both the traditional "man" and "woman" experience perpetuated by cis het society left me lost as to how I was supposed to think of myself. Discov-*

ering this was an option and that I didn't have to struggle to fit myself into two labels I barely connect with was very freeing! - Dan (They/Them)

NON-GENDER CONFORMING /"non jen-der kuhnfawrm"/ *adj*: people who do not adhere to societal gender norms. People may describe themselves as gender nonconforming if they don't conform to the gender expression, presentation, behaviors, roles, or expectations that society sees as the norm for their gender. People of any gender identity can be gender nonconforming.

Discovering this was an option (non-binary) and that I didn't have to struggle to fit myself into two labels I barely connect with was very freeing!



OMNIGENDER noun & adj: A person who identifies with all gender identities.

OMNISEXUAL noun & adj: A person who is attracted to those of all gender identities and sexual orientations

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *As I understand it, omnisexual, pansexual, and bisexual have all come to mean similar things in a less formal setting. It's more just a label preference, and the continued controversy surrounding it largely contains transphobic sentiments (e.g. one sexuality has included trans or nonbinary people while the other doesn't) or arguments that would otherwise deem the other shallow (e.g. one sexuality being defined as attraction to anyone regardless of their gender identity while another strictly requires a specific gender identity—not always true for every individual, mostly concerns those who use bisexual as an all-encompassing gender attraction label).* - Dan (They/Them)

OUTING /"ou-ting"/ verb: involuntary or unwanted disclosure of another person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: **OUTING PEOPLE IS NOT DOING THEM A FAVOR.** - Liv Hurt (They/Them) **2** *A lot of the time using someone's preferred pronouns is the right thing to do. However, people are often outed on accident if those pronouns are used around someone who doesn't know about their gender identity. Just be careful that you know when it's safe to use certain terms around certain people. Unfortunately, not all spaces are safe but we can all work to make that change!* - Elise Monroe (She/Her) **3** *Outing is a way of "coming out" even though its involuntary. Being out is scary and can be empowering when its your choice. In my case, I was outed and this is a common experience and can be extremely traumatizing. I felt powerless, seeing people around me tell my story, how I felt without me even saying anything. They spoke for me as if I shared all the intimate details of navigating my queer identity. I was later bombard with inappropriate personal questions after I was outed, "Do you still like men?" "How do you have sex" etc.* - Anonymous (They/She)

As I understand it, omnisexual, pansexual, and bisexual have all come to mean similar things in a less formal setting.

**OUTING
PEOPLE IS
NOT DOING
THEM A
FAVOR.**



PANGENDER /"pan-jen-der/ noun & adj: exhibiting characteristics of multiple genders, deliberately refuting the concept of only two genders.

PANSEXUAL /"pan-sek-shoo-uhl"/ noun, adj. : a person who experiences sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions. Often shortened to "pan."

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *For me, being pan is the most all encompassing term for my sexual orientation. I don't have a preference for a particular gender or lack their of, or for anything else when it comes to someone's physical body. It also makes room for those who are somewhere in the process of transitioning because it allows for all expressions which I think is pretty cool.* - Elise Monroe

PASSING /"pas-ing"/ adj. & verb: trans people being accepted as, or able to "pass for," a member of their self-identified gender identity (regardless of sex assigned at birth) without being identified as trans*. **2** adj. : an LGB/queer individual who is believed to be or perceived as straight.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER *Definitely a more complicated process for nonbinary identifying people, considering we have no set image of what we're supposed to look like aside from "androgynous" which is vague in itself. Additionally, a building sentiment in the past few years has revolved around the necessity of "passing"; some trans people have come to view passing as something only necessary for the comfort of cis people which has brought into question whether it should be achieved (usually at the expense of physical, emotional, or mental comfort) or if it is achievable at all (e.g. "will all cis people ever be comfortable with how I present?").* - Dan (They/Them) **2** *As I'm starting to transition to be more masculine, I have been very hung-up on the idea of passing. I am 5'0" and a very fat/curvy person, and I know that cis men just don't have the body type I have. I don't really know if I will ever really be able to pass as a guy, and that as I use the name and pronouns that feel right for me I am always going to look pretty visibly trans. It makes me feel out of place in my own body. Top surgery is something that is definitely in my future, and maybe hormones too, but there is only so much that that can change. I also have to remember that I don't really fit into the gender binary, so I don't know if I would really want to pass as a cis guy anyway. It's just that passing lends an amount of security and safety outside of queer circles.* - Theo (He/They)

PERISEX A word for people whose sex characteristics fit into a traditional "female" or "male" category. The opposite of intersex. (See: Dyadic).

POLYAMORY /"pol-ee-am-er-ee"/ noun: refers to the practice of, desire for, or orientation toward having ethical, honest, and consensual non-monogamous relationships (i.e. relationships that may include multiple partners). Often shortened to "poly."

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I think Polyamory is so often seen as something that it's not, heteronormativity has pushed the idea of being in a relationship = owning each other. Loving whoever you love is so beautiful, and I know personally that I see too much beauty in the world to restrict that love to only one person.* - Eden (She/They) **2** *Being poly let me let go of the shame I used to feel by loving multiple people.* - Jaenine Santos (Any Pronouns) **3** *Love does not need to be a scarce resource. We are taught to reserve all our love for only one other person, at the expense of giving this abundant resource to other people. It can be hard restructuring the way we view and approach love, but a love that is shared is so powerful and so beautiful.* - Sloane (They/She) **4** *The level of communication and emotional vulnerability you have to build in order to make being poly work has brought my partner and I closer together than we ever were before. When done for the right reasons, I think polyamory can be a really beautiful thing.* - Elise Monroe

POLYSEXUAL /"pol-ee sek-shoo-uhl"/ noun & adj: A person with sexual attraction to various, but not necessarily all, genders. A polysexual person may experience sexual attraction to any number of genders, varying between (at least) two and all but one.

PRONOUNS /"proh-nouns"/ Pronouns are words that refer to either the people talking (like you or I) or someone or something that is being talked about (like she, they, and this). Gender pronouns (like he or them) specifically refer to people that you are talking about.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Pronouns do not always match with the expected gender/sex of a person, and asking someone's pronouns is generally considered respectful!* - Dan (They/Them) **2** *One does not need to change their pronouns in order for their gender identity to be valid.* - Sloane (They/She)



OPOC/QTPOC *abbr.*: initialisms that stand for queer people of color and queer and/or trans people of color.

QUARIWARMI (INCA, PERU) In pre-colonial Andean culture, the Incas worshipped the chuqui chinchay, a dual-gendered god. Third-gender ritual attendants or shamans performed sacred rituals to honor this god. The quariwarmi shamans wore androgynous clothing as "a visible sign of a third space that negotiated between the masculine and the feminine, the present and the past, the living and the dead. Their shamanic presence invoked the androgynous creative force often represented in Andean mythology," according to scholar Michael J. Horswell. They were deemed sodomites by the conquering Spaniards.

QUEER /" kweer"/ *adj.*: an umbrella term to describe individuals who don't identify as straight and/or cisgender. **2** *noun*: a slur used to refer to someone who isn't straight and/or cisgender. Due to its historical use as a derogatory term, and how it is still used as a slur in many communities, it is not embraced or used by all LGBTQ people. The term "queer" can often be used interchangeably with LGBTQ (e.g., "queer people" instead of "LGBTQ people").

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Queer has been the most honest way to label my sexuality because it encompasses all of the labels I feel that I could identify with but are not perfect expressions of who I am. - Olivia Elman (She/Her)*

2 *I LOVE the term queer. I have a complicated identity and it's exhausting having to give people a vocabulary lesson or suffer the blank stares every time I mention my identity. It is much more convenient to just say I'm queer and move on. I also love that being queer is a politically radical act. In the 90s, when there was a shift in gay activism towards assimilation and the narrative was "we're just like you," trans people and anyone who didn't fit into a neat and tidy box that could be palatable and marketable to cis het people were thrown under the bus. At that time, queer activists scooped up everyone thrown aside and said "fuck you, we're not assimilating, we're not going to try and be palatable to cis hets. We're here, we're queer, get used to it." Being queer means uprooting the system and changing the game, and I could not love it more. - Lily Abells (They/Them)*

QUESTIONING /" kwes-chuh-ning"/ *verb & adj.*: an individual who or time when someone is unsure about or exploring their own sexual orientation or gender identity.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I believe everyone should get to question the heteronormative standards placed on us at birth. It doesn't mean you have to be queer but it's good and necessary to be able to explore yourself and find out who you really are. - Elise Monroe (She/Her)*

Queer has been the most honest way to label my sexuality because it encompasses all of the labels I feel that I could identify with but are not perfect expressions of who I am.



RAINBOW /" reyn-boh"/ *noun*: the pride symbol for LGBTQ+. The different colors within the flag were meant to represent togetherness, since LGBT people come of all races, ages, and genders, and rainbows are both natural and beautiful.

ROMANTIC ATTRACTION /" roh-man-ti uh-trak-shuhn"/ *noun*: a capacity that evokes the want to engage in romantic intimate behavior (e.g., dating, relationships, marriage), experienced in varying degrees (from little-to-none, to intense). Often conflated with sexual attraction, emotional attraction, and/or spiritual attraction.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I feel romantic attraction for others so I desire to date them, go on dates, I will probably marry, and I desire to kiss and cuddle with people. I am a romantic at heart and want to find that special someone. This is commonly confused with sexual attraction but it is not since that is intercourse. - Lauren (She/Her/Hers) 2 I consider myself basically a lesbian because I only have romantic attraction with women and non binary people. While I still am sexually attracted to men, I would never date one and focus my time on women and enbys as opposed to men. I think this still counts as being a lesbian (?) - Mia Lew (She/Her)*

Rainbow Flag Evolution



Original pride flag by Gilbert Baker in 1978

Hot pink (sex), red (life), orange (healing), yellow (sunlight), green (nature), turquoise (magic/art), indigo (serenity), and violet (spirit).



The six-striped Pride flag created in 1979

The pink and turquoise stripe were quickly dropped as fabric in those colors was difficult to find, and by 1979 the six-striped version we know today was established.



Philadelphia Pride flag created in 2017

This version featured added black and brown stripes to the top of the flag, meant to create a more inclusive flag and recognise people of colour in the LGBTQ+ community.



Progress Pride flag created by Daniel Quasar in 2018

A new version of the flag seeking to emphasize what is important in our current community climate



SEKRATA (MADAGASCAR) Among the Sakalavas little boys thought to have a feminine appearance were raised as girls. The Antandroy and Hova called their gender crossers sekrata who, like women, wore their hair long and in decorative knots, inserted silver coins in pierced ears, and wore many bracelets on their arms, wrists and ankles. They considered themselves "real" women, totally forgetting they were born males, and through long practice spoke with a woman's voice. Their society thought their efforts to be female natural and believed that they had supernatural protection which punished anyone who attempted to do them harm.

SEX /"seks"/ *noun*: A classification system is assigned at birth based on a person's physical characteristics, reproductive systems, chromosomes, hormones, and secondary sex characteristics. Sex is generally classified at birth as male, female, or intersex based on the appearance of the external genitalia. If these are ambiguous, sex is assigned based on internal genitalia, hormones, and chromosomes. Sex is generally recorded on the birth certificate but can sometimes be changed on this document as well as on other legal documents such as a driver's license.

SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH (SAAB) *abbr.*: a phrase used to intentionally recognize a person's assigned sex (not gender identity). Sometimes called "designated sex at birth" (DSAB) or "sex coercively assigned at birth" (SCAB), or specifically used as "assigned male at birth" (AMAB) or "assigned female at birth" (AFAB): Jenny was assigned male at birth, but identifies as a woman.

SEXUAL ATTRACTION /"sek-shoo-uhl uh-trak-shuhn"/ *noun*: a capacity that evokes the want to engage in physically intimate behavior (e.g. intercourse), experienced in varying degrees (from little-to-none to intense). Often conflated with romantic attraction, emotional attraction, and/or spiritual attraction. Although, romantic attraction can involve cuddling and kissing!

SEXUAL ORIENTATION /"sek-shoo-uhl awr-ee-uhn-tey-shuhn"/ *noun*: the type of sexual, romantic, emotional/spiritual attraction one has the capacity to feel for some others, generally labeled based on the gender relationship between the person and the people they are attracted to. Often confused with sexual preference.

SEXUAL PREFERENCE /"sek-shoo-uhl pref-er-uhns"/ *noun*: the types of sexual intercourse, stimulation, and gratification one like to receive and participate in. Generally, when this term is used, it is being mistakenly interchanged with "sexual orientation," creating an illusion that one has a choice (or "preference") to who they are attracted.

SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY /"seksree-uh-sahyn-muhnt sur-juh-ree"/ *noun*: used by some medical professionals to refer to a group of surgical options that alter a person's biological sex. "Gender confirmation surgery" is considered by many to be a more affirming term. In most cases, one or multiple surgeries are required to achieve legal recognition of gender variance. Some refer to different surgical procedures as "top" surgery and "bottom" surgery to discuss what type of surgery they are having without having to be more explicit.

SHEY/SHEM: Pronouns used by some demigirls. A blend of she/her and they/them pronouns.

"SISTERGIRLS"+"BROTHERBOYS" (ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN) In Australia, indigenous transgendered people are known as "sistergirls" and "brotherboys". As in some other native cultures, there is evidence that transgender and intersex people were much more accepted in their society before colonization. Now, there are more stigmas attached. But through an increasing number of support groups specifically aimed at sistergirls and brotherboys, who have their own unique psychological and medical needs, perhaps times will change again.

SKOLIOSEXUAL *adj.* : being primarily sexually, romantically, and/or emotionally attracted to some genderqueer, transgender, transsexual, and/or non-binary

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I never knew this term existed but I think I definitely identify with it! - Jo (They/Them)*

SKOPTSY (RUSSIA) The Skoptsy were a Christian religious sect with extreme views on sex and gender. The community, discovered in 1771 in Western Russia, believed that Adam and Eve had halves of the forbidden fruit grafted onto their bodies in the form of testicles and breasts. Therefore, they routinely castrated male children and amputated the breasts of women to return themselves the state prior to original sin. Sex, vanity, beauty, and lust were considered the root of evil. They faced persecution, but grew to as many as 100,000 in the 20th century. Many were arrested or deported. Only a few were allowed to procreate. By the 1950s they had almost disappeared.

STRAIGHT /"streyt"/ *adj.* : a person primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to some people who are not their same sex/gender. A more colloquial term for the word heterosexual.

STUD A Black masculine identifying lesbian. Not all Black masculine identifying lesbians consider themselves studs, but all studs are most certainly Black. Stud is racially specific because it was created by Black lesbians to differentiate their experiences from their white counterparts and express gender roles developed within the Black community.

QUEER FACT!

Do you know where the word *slay* comes from?

The term was inspired by slang unique to the ballroom and drag world and the LGBTIQ community, intended to positively affirm those around them

Used in its original form, "Slay, Queen" was an instruction of sorts, often given to a good looking person who is well-dressed, has a face full of impeccable makeup and whose hair looks good.

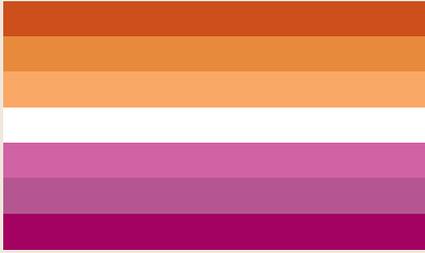
LGBTQ+ FLAGS!

This is by all means not every flag!



Genderqueer Flag designed by Marilyn Roxie in 2011

Designed by the genderqueer activist Marilyn Roxie, the flag's three colors each carry a specific meaning with lavender representing androgynes and androgyny, white representing agender and gender neutral folks and chartreuse green, the inverse of lavender, represents people with identities "defined outside of and without reference to the binary"



Lesbian flag created by Emily Gwen in 2018

From top to bottom dark orange (gender nonconformity), orange (independence), light orange (community), white (unique relationships to womanhood), pink (serenity and peace), dusty pink (love and sex), and dark rose (Femininity).



Non-Binary Pride by Kyle Rowan in 2014

The colors, as broken down by non-binary writer Cade Hildreth, from top to bottom represent people who identify outside of the cisgender binary of male or female, multigender people, people who identify as a blend of male and female genders, people who are agender or genderless



Pan flag created by Jasper V in 2019

Designed by Jasper V, a queer, non-binary person living in England. The pan flag got its start on Tumblr, with pink representing attraction to femme-identifying people, blue representing attraction to those who are male-identified, and yellow representing attraction to non-binary and genderqueer folks.



Trans flag created by Monica Helms in 1999

Designed by a trans woman and Navy veteran, the flag is meant to represent the trans community. The stripes at the top and bottom are light blue, the traditional color for baby boys. The stripes next to them are pink, the traditional color for baby girls. The stripe in the middle is white, for those who are intersex, transitioning or consider themselves having a neutral or undefined gender.



Bi flag by bi activist Michael Page in 1998

Created by bi activist Michael Page in 1998, pink is meant to represent attraction to your same gender and blue attraction to a different gender, while the overlapping lavender stripe symbolizes attraction to both and/or multiple genders.



Genderfluid Flag created by JJ Poole in 2014

Pink is meant to represent femininity or feeling female, white meaning lack of gender, purple meaning a combination of masculinity and femininity, including various degrees of androgyny, black meaning all other genders, including third gender and pangender folks, and blue representing masculinity or feeling male.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 50+ LGBTQ+ pride flags!

Try to list them all!



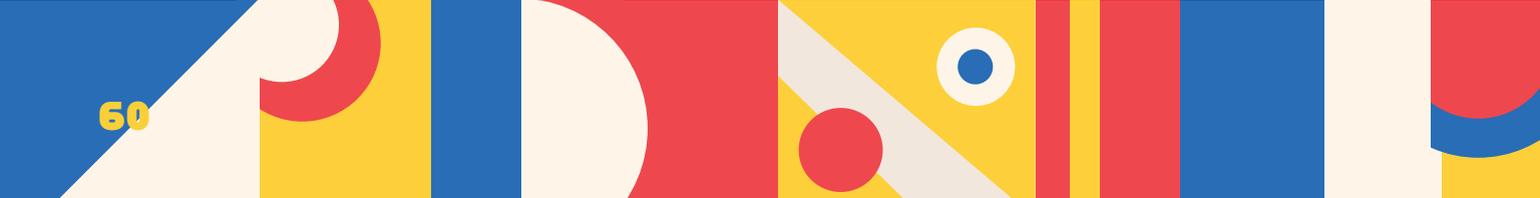
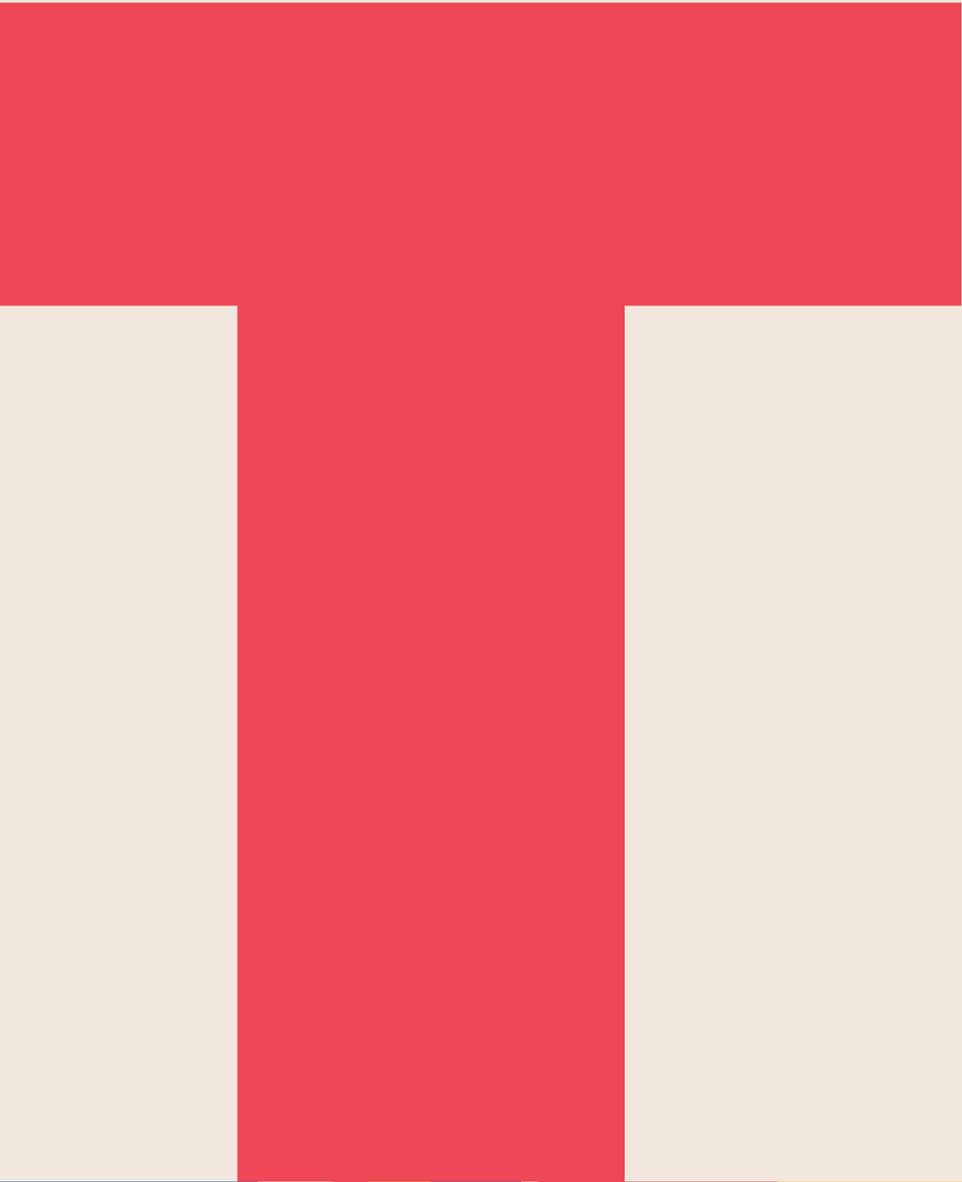
Asexual flag by Standup in 2010

A competition winner, Standup created the Asexual Flag in 2010 with black meaning asexuality, gray meaning gray-Asexuality and Demisexuality, white meaning non-asexual partners and allies and purple representing community



Omnisexual flag designed in 2015 by Tumblr user Pastelmemer

Omnisexuality, in which someone feels an attraction to all gender identities, is described as distinct from pansexuality in its relationship to gender. Light pink and light blue represent the gender spectrum, pink represents attraction to women and femme-identifying people, blue represents attraction to men and masc-identifying people and dark purple represents attraction to people whose gender is outside the above categories genders.



T4T: *adj.* Short for "trans for trans." A trans-identifying person attracted to other trans-identifying people.

TOP SURGERY /"top sur-juh-ree"/ *noun:* this term refers to surgery for the construction of a male-type chest or breast augmentation for a female-type chest.

TRANS *adj.:* an umbrella term covering a range of identities that transgress socially-defined gender norms. Trans with an asterisk is often used in written forms (not spoken) to indicate that you are referring to the larger group nature of the term, and specifically including non-binary identities, as well as transgender men (transmen) and transgender women (transwomen).

TRANSGENDER /"trans-jen-der"/ *adj.:* a gender description for someone who has transitioned (or is transitioning) from living as one gender to another. **2** *adj.:* an umbrella term for anyone whose sex assigned at birth and gender identity do not correspond in an expected way (e.g., someone who was assigned male at birth, but does not identify as a man).

TRANSITION/TRANSITIONING /"tran-zish-uhn"/ *noun & verb:* referring to the process of a transgender person changing aspects of themselves (e.g., their appearance, name, pronouns, or making physical changes to their body) to be more congruent with the gender they know themselves to be (as opposed to the gender they lived as pre-transitioning).

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *I have just started transitioning!! It's brand new, and so scary, but so so exciting. I feel like I finally have figured out who I am, and I don't have to hide behind this mask of femininity anymore. I never realized that transitioning could be such a celebration of the person that you want to become. - Theo (He/They)*

TRANSMAN/TRANSWOMAN /"trans-man/trans-woom-uhn"/ *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 assigned female sex at birth. (sometimes referred to as transguy) **2** Identity labels are sometimes adopted by male-to-female transsexuals or transgender people to signify that they are women while still affirming their history as assigned male sex at birth.

TRANSPHOBIA /"trans-foh-bee-uh"/ *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. Transphobic *adj.:* a word used to describe an individual who harbors some elements of this range of negative attitudes, thoughts, and intents, towards trans* people.

TRAVESTI (SOUTH AMERICA) In some cultures of South America, a travesti is a person who was born male, has a feminine gender identity, and is primarily sexually attracted to non-feminine men. Travestis' feminine identity includes feminine dress, language, and social and sexual roles. However, in contrast to transsexual women, they often don't see themselves as women, and many describe themselves as gay or homosexual. Travestis may modify their bodies with hormones or silicone, but rarely seek genital surgery. Many travestis survive through prostitution. In recent years, violence against travestis has skyrocketed, especially in Brazil.

TWINK *noun & adj:* a term for a queer man or masculine person who is effeminate, flamboyant, young-looking, lean or "scrawny," and without much facial or body hair. Often refers to White men. A contrast to a Bear.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *My wife constantly calls me a twink, even though I don't think I really embody the spirit of a twink. I can't deny I'm scrawny though -Kap (they/them)*

TWO-SPIRIT /"too-spir-it"/ *noun:* Two-Spirit is an important term in many indigenous cultures. It has no set definition but is mainly used to describe a spiritual view of gender or sexuality. It can be used to describe sexual orientation, gender identity, or spiritual identity. It is a term specific to Indigenous cultures and using it as a non-indigenous person would be cultural appropriation.

COMMENT FROM A QUEER: *Two-Spirit reflects the presence of gender nonconforming individuals prior in America prior to their colonization. Trans and genderqueer people have always existed!!! - Sloane (They/She)*



WARIA (INDONESIA) Waria is a term used for the third gender in Indonesia who are born male but live along a continuum of gender identity in this Islamic nation. The term waria "includes individuals who continue to identify as male but who imitate certain feminine mannerisms, and perhaps occasionally wear makeup and women's clothing. Others identify so closely as female that they are able to pass as female in their daily interactions in society. As waria, these individuals become almost invisible." Waria are often falsely lumped into a stereotype as flamboyant cross-dressing sex workers, when a majority do not fit that description.

WHAKAWAHINE (MAORI, NEW ZEALAND) In Maori culture, whakawahine are men who prefer the company of women and take up traditionally feminine occupations such as weaving.

WHAKATANE (MAORI, NEW ZEALAND) In Maori culture, Whakatane denotes a biological female who pursues traditionally male roles, such as becoming a warrior or engaging in physical labor.

WINKTE (LAKOTA) Winkte is the Lakota word for two-spirit people. Like the Diné/Navajo nadleehi and dilbaa, the winkte are born male but assume many traditional women's roles, such as cooking, caring for children and assuming key roles in rituals and serving as the keeper of the tribe's oral traditions.

WLW: *adj.* Short for "women who love women." More general than just lesbian or bisexual, it includes all women- or feminine-identifying people who are attracted to other women- or feminine-identifying people.

What's the origin of WLW?

The term is thought by many to be originating from Black American Vernacular English, namely from the 1920's, with the rise of black female blues artists, like Bessie Smith. During the era, being a lesbian was more of a taboo for women, though bisexuality was more accepted by society.

We may see how the acronym was utilized to maintain secrecy in a culture still filled with prejudice against women and black people and especially against black women.



ZE/ZIR /“zee”, “zerr” or “zeer”/ alternate pronouns that are gender neutral and preferred by some trans* people. They replace “he” and “she” and “his” and “hers” respectively. Alternatively some people who are not comfortable/do not embrace he/she use the pronouns “they/their” as a gender neutral singular pronoun.

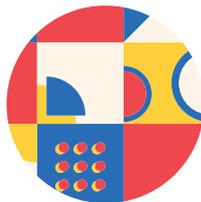
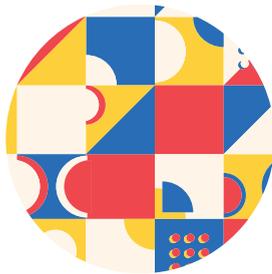
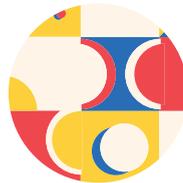
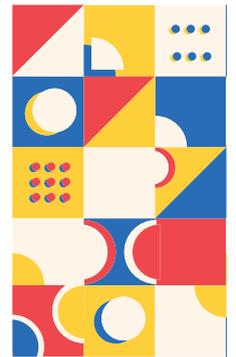
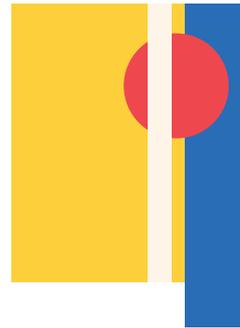
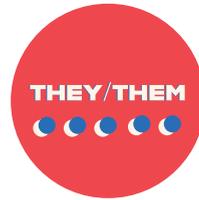
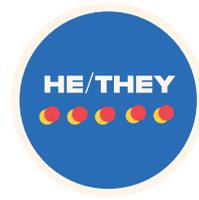
MAP OF GENDER DIVERSE CULTURES



FOR MORE INFORMATION HEAD TO:

[HTTPS://WWW.PBS.ORG/INDEPENDENTLENS/CONTENT/TWO-SPIRITS_MAP-HTML/](https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/content/two-spirits_map-html/)





**QUEER DICTIONARY
STICKER PAGE**



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