

## **Basic Definitions: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression** **(SOGIE)**

### **SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

An enduring pattern of romantic or sexual attraction (or a combination of these) to person of the opposite sex or gender, the same sex or gender, to both sexes or more than one gender, on none.

<b>Asexual</b>	A person with little to no interest in sexual activity or attraction.
<b>Bisexual</b>	An umbrella term for people who recognize their potential for sexual and emotional attraction to more than one gender.
<b>Gay</b>	An identity term used by some men who are sexually and/or emotionally attracted to men. Sometimes used by the general public to refer to all people who are attracted to people of the same gender.
<b>Lesbian</b>	An identity term used by some women and are sexually and/or emotionally attracted to women.
<b>Pansexual</b>	An identity term used by some people who recognize and honor their potential to be sexually and/or emotionally attracted to another person, regardless of gender identity.
<b>Queer</b>	A historically derogatory word in the process of being reclaimed by the LGBTQ community as an umbrella term for LGBTQ identities. The term may also be used to describe an individual identity in which one experiences a fluid or flexible gender and/or sexuality, or rejects the use of other labels.
<b>Questioning</b>	An individual who or time when someone is unsure about or exploring their own sexual orientation or gender identity.
<b>Same Gender Loving</b>	A term sometimes used by members of the African American/Black community to express an alternative sexual orientation without relying on terms and symbols of European descent.
<b>Straight</b>	A person who is attracted to people of the “opposite” gender; generally used to refer to people whose sexualities are societally normative. Alternately referred to as “heterosexual.”

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### GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION

The ways in which a person identifies and/or expresses their gender, including self-image, appearance, and embodiment of gender roles. One's *sex* (e.g. male, female, intersex, etc.) is usually assigned at birth based on one's physical biology. One's *gender* (e.g. male, female, genderqueer, etc.) is one's internal sense of self and identity. One's *gender expression* (e.g. masculine, feminine, androgynous, etc.) is how one embodies gender attributes, presentations, roles, and more.

<b>Agender</b>	A person who identifies as having no gender or being without any gender identity.
<b>Androgynous</b>	A person who has a combination of masculine and feminine gender expression or the lack of gender identification. Neither clearly masculine nor clearly feminine in appearance.
<b>Cisgender</b>	A term that describes an individual whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth.
<b>Gender Nonconforming/Gender Diverse</b>	Behavior or gender expression that does not match traditional gender roles for males or females. Other terms describing the same concept are gender variance, gender expansive, or gender diverse.
<b>Genderqueer/Third Gender</b>	These terms are used by people who identify as being between and/or other than male or female. They may feel they are neither, a little bit of both, or may simply feel restricted by gender labels.
<b>Gender Fluid</b>	A term used by some whose gender identity may vary at different points in time.
<b>Intersex</b>	A general term used for a variety of genetic, hormonal, or anatomical conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the typical definitions of female or male.
<b>Non-Binary</b>	An umbrella term used by individuals wishing to identify as falling outside of the gender binary without any gender specificity. This has some overlap with gender nonconforming and genderqueer.
<b>Transgender</b>	An umbrella term that describes people whose gender identity or gender expression differs from expectations associated with the sex assigned to them at birth.
<b>Two-Spirit</b>	A person who identifies with the Native American tradition of characterizing certain members of the community as having the spirit of both the male and female genders.