

beyond pink & blue: Glossary of Terms of Definition

- **The Gender Binary:** A system of viewing gender as consisting solely of two, opposite categories, termed “male and female”, in which no other possibilities for gender or anatomy are believed to exist. This system is oppressive to anyone who defies their sex assigned at birth, but particularly those who are gender-variant or do not fit neatly into one of the two standard categories.
- **Sex Assigned at Birth/Assigned Sex at Birth/Assigned Gender at Birth:** The assignment and classification of people as male, female, intersex, or another sex assigned at birth often based on physical anatomy at birth and/or chromosomes.
- **Queer:** A broadly inclusive term that can refer either to gender identity, sexual orientation, or both. It is also sometimes used as an umbrella term to describe LGBTQ communities. Some use queer as an alternative to "gay" in an effort to be more inclusive. Depending on the user, the term has either a derogatory or an affirming connotation, as many have sought to reclaim the term that was once widely used in a negative way. It is used frequently by younger LGBTQ people, activists, and academics.
- **Transgender:** A term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth. Transgender is a broad term and is often used as an umbrella term to encompass many different gender identities (for example, non-binary, genderqueer, genderfluid, etc). Transgender is good for cisgender people to use. "Trans" is often used as a shorthand for "transgender."
- **Cisgender:** A term for someone who identifies as their sex assigned at birth. Adjective that means “identifies as their sex assigned at birth” derived from the Latin word meaning “on the same side.” A cisgender/cis person is not transgender. Cisgender is often shortened to “cis.” Cisgender is not a slur or a “fake” word.
- **Misgender:** to refer to someone (especially a transgender person) using a word, especially a pronoun or form of address, that does not correctly reflect the gender with which they identify.
- **Gender norms:** Culturally accepted patterns of behavior associated with men and women
- **Gender Identity:** An individual’s internal sense of being male, female, or something else. Since gender identity is internal, one’s gender identity is not necessarily visible to others.
- **Gender Expression:** How a person represents or expresses one’s gender identity to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, voice or body characteristics.

- **Gender normative:** when one's gender identity and expression fits society's expectations of what it means to be a girl/woman or a boy/man.
- **Intersex:** A term used for people who are born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy and/or chromosome pattern that does not seem to fit typical definitions of male or female. Intersex conditions are also known as differences of sex development (DSD).
- **Sexual Orientation:** A term describing a person's attraction to members of the same sex and/or a different sex, usually defined as lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, or asexual.
- **Heteronormative:** A viewpoint that expresses heterosexuality as a given instead of being one of many possibilities for a person's sexual orientation. Heteronormativity is often expressed subtly where heterosexuality is "accepted" as the default sexuality.

LGBTQ Resources

- **New York City Anti-Violence Project :**
www.avp.org
- **National Center for Transgender Equality:**
www.transequality.org
- **The Loft:**
<http://loftgaycenter.org>
- **Prideworks:**
www.prideworks.com
- **Center Lane (WJCS):**
<http://www.wjcs.com/center-lane-lgbtq-youth-and-community-education-center/>



My Sisters' Place strives to engage each member of society in our work to end domestic violence, so that all relationships can embrace the principles of respect, equality, and peacefulness. We advance this mission with direct services, advocacy and community education.

24 Hour Hotline Number: 1-800-298-7233 / www.mspny.org