

SO/GI Glossary of Terms

Agender: A person who is agender sees themselves as neither man nor woman, has no gender identity, or no gender to express. This is an example of someone who may also identify as genderqueer or non-binary.

Androgynous: A term for someone with a gender presentation or identity that is ambiguous. May also be described as gender-neutral or non-binary.

Asexual: A term used to describe a sexual orientation for someone who does not experience sexual attraction.

Cisgender: A term for people whose gender identity corresponds to the sex they were assigned at birth.

Correct Name: Name the person wants to be called (may or may not be the same as their legal name).

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

Gender Fluid: A person who's gender identity is flexible. The person may fluctuate between genders or they may express multiple genders at a given time.

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 non-binary/Genderqueer/Gender non-conforming: A person who does not subscribe to conventional gender distinctions but identifies with neither, both, or a combination of male and female genders.

Gender Pronouns: A word that refers to either the people talking (I or you) or someone or something that is being talked about (like she, them, and this). Gender pronouns (he/she/they/ etc.) specifically refer to people that you are talking about. If Alex's pronouns are they and them, you could say "Alex ate their food because they were hungry."

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).

Pansexual: A term used to describe a sexual orientation for someone who is attracted to and/or involved in sexual activity with people of any gender, including cisgender, transgender, gender-fluid and non-binary people.

Queer: An umbrella term used to refer to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and sometimes also transgender people. Some use this word as an alternative to "LGBT" in an effort to be more inclusive. Many have sought to reclaim the term that was once widely used in a negative way.

Sexual Orientation: How a person describes their own sexual identity, including their physical and emotional attraction and sexual behavior, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, straight/heterosexual, pansexual, queer, questioning, or asexual. Sexual orientation may differ from sexual activity, attraction, romantic attraction, or sexual behavior.

Transgender: A term for people whose gender identity is different from their assigned sex at birth. Transgender is a broad term and is good for non-transgender people to use. "Trans" is shorthand for "transgender." (Note: Transgender is correctly used as an adjective, not a noun, thus "transgender people" is appropriate but "transgenders" is often viewed as disrespectful.)

Sources:

National Center for Transgender Equality ▪ www.TransEquality.org ▪ updated January 2014
What is Asexuality: www.whatisasexuality.com, retrieved April 2018
Teen Vogue: www.teenvogue.com, retrieved April 2018