

GENDER AND SEXUALITY GLOSSARY

We present some important concepts and terms related to gender and sexuality diversity. For more information, please go to our GATE Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Topics



GATE+ LG BETA
process

**Gender
Awareness and
Transformation for
Equality**
LGBTQIA+

movetia Autism- und Mobilität
Erkenntnis und
Bewusstsein
Erkennung und
Erkennung

 Co-funded by
the European Union

Ally

A (typically) straight and/or cis person who supports members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and acts against any kind of violence and discrimination against LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Aroace

Is a term that combines 2 identities: aromantic (aro) and asexual (ace); it represents individuals who experience little or no romantic and sexual attraction to other people.

Asexuality (ace)

Is a sexual orientation characterised by a lack of sexual attraction or interest in sexual activity with others. Individuals who identify as asexual may still experience romantic attraction, emotional connections, and form relationships. Still, they typically do not experience sexual attraction or they rarely experience sexual attraction (greysexual) or only after creating a romantic connection with another person (demisexual).

Bisexual

Bisexuality is an umbrella term used to describe a romantic and/or sexual orientation towards more than one gender.

Biphobia

Irrational fear, hate and prejudice against bisexual people. Biphobia differs from homophobia, as it refers to stereotypes and prejudices that target specifically bisexual people, e.g. the stereotype that bisexual people are “greedy”. It can include a wide range of negative beliefs, stances and behaviours, from stereotyping to extreme violence incidents.

Cisgender

Refers to people whose gender identity and expression matches the biological sex they were assigned at birth.

Cisnormativity

The assumption that everyone is cisgender, and that cisgender identities are superior to trans identities.

Coming out

The process of willingly expressing one's sexual orientation/gender identity/intersex variation to their family, social and work environment, etc. Coming out can also refer to the process of identifying/accepting one's sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex variation.

Dyadic

Dyadic people were born with sex characteristics which could be categorised into one of the binary genders. It is a term sometimes used to refer to a person who is not intersex. The term "Endosex" is also used.

Gay

Mostly used for men who are attracted exclusively to other men. Some women who are attracted to women may also identify as gay.

Gender Identity

One's internal sense of being a woman, man, neither of these, both, or another gender(s). Everyone has a gender identity, including you.

Gender Expression

How a person outwardly shows their gender identity, usually expressed through behaviour, pronouns, clothing, haircut, makeup, voice, etc.

Heteronormativity

The social enforcement of the gender binary, as well as the belief that heterosexuality is the only normal and acceptable sexual orientation. This belief results in the invisibility, stigmatisation and discrimination against people who are not or are perceived not to be heterosexual.

Heterosexuality

Heterosexuality refers to the romantic attraction and/or sexual attraction experienced by men towards women, and vice versa (as a term is usually binary-oriented).

Homophobia

Is the irrational fear of and aversion to homosexuality and to lesbian, gay and bisexual people based on prejudice¹. Although it is called “phobia”, it is more connected to the feelings and behaviours of hate against the discriminated people, resulting in violence. It is used as a social control system for people to have sexually affective relationships with the opposite sex. Heterosexuality is taken for granted, being considered the norm.

Intersectionality

Intersectionality is used to describe how race, class, gender, sexuality, (dis)ability and other individual characteristics “intersect” with one another and overlap, recognizing that individuals hold multiple identities simultaneously, that shape unique experiences of discrimination and privilege. It is an analytical tool for understanding the complexities of social identities and related systems of oppression. For more information please check the infographic [here](#).

Interphobia

Irrational fear, hate and prejudice against intersex people and people who may be perceived to have intersex variations. It can include a wide range of negative beliefs, stances and behaviours, from stereotyping to extreme violence incidents, including “normalising” medical interventions.

Intersex

Is a term for innate natural differences in sex traits or reproductive anatomy and the lived experience of the socio-cultural consequences of being born with a body that does not fit within the normative definitions of “male” and “female” bodies.

1 <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/terms/1243>

Lesbian

A woman who is attracted exclusively to other women.

Non-binary

An umbrella-term for all gender identities outside the gender binary. Some identities within the non-binary umbrella are: genderfluid, agender, bigender, etc.

Outing

The act of revealing a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex variation against his/her/their will.

Pansexual

Is a sexual orientation characterised by the potential for attraction to individuals regardless of their gender identity.

Queer

A complex term with multiple interpretations. In the past, it was used as a derogatory term for LGBTIA+ people, but since the 80s activists and academics have reclaimed it as a positive and confrontational self-description to challenge social norms around sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or other forms of normativity. It is often used by people who do not accept the traditional concepts of gender and sexuality and do not identify with any of the terms of the LGBTIA+ acronym, but also as an umbrella term for all LGBTIA+ people.

Romantic/emotional orientation

Refers to the emotional attraction a person can experience towards other people. Romantic and sexual attraction may not always coincide.

Sex

Refers to the biological aspect of an individual as determined by their anatomy, including chromosomes and hormones.

Sex characteristics

The biological and anatomical characteristics associated with sex, including the primary sex characteristics (chromosomes, internal and external reproductive organs, sex hormones, gonads) and the secondary sex characteristics (e.g., breasts' development, muscle and fat distribution, hair growth, etc.).

Sexual orientation

Refers to the physical attraction a person can experience towards other people. Romantic and sexual attraction may not always coincide.

Transgender

Refers to people whose gender identity and expression do not match the sex they were assigned at birth. It is an umbrella term for trans men, trans women, and non-binary people.

Transphobia

Is the irrational fear of gender non-conformity or gender transgression, such as a fear of, or aversion to, masculine women, feminine men, trans people, and others who do not fit into existing gender stereotypes about their birth gender². It is used as a social control system to make people assume the gender that corresponds to their assigned sex.



GATE process + LGBTQIA GENDER AND SEXUALITY GLOSSARY

movetia

Austausch und Mobilität
Echanges et mobilité
Scambi di mobilità
Exchange and mobility

**alte
kio**

ORLANDO!
MILANO ROMA BERG OTTAWA

Xena
ASSOCIATION OF GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

**alte
kio** swiss
suisse
schweiz
svizzera



Co-funded by
the European Union