

# Safe Harbor Project

## LGBT Definitions

A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T V W Z

Problematic Terms - Defamatory Terms - Offensive Terms To Avoid  
Transgender Names Pronoun Usage & Descriptions - Defamatory Language

As with the acronym LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender), many terms exist that may arise in discussions about sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. The following is a partial list of definitions for common words and phrases used in association with LGBT.

The following terminology is being shared with you in an effort to help you better understand and truly challenge the misconceptions, myths, and assumptions that exist toward LGBT persons. Some of the terminology listed is considered offensive, derogatory and/or racist and should not be utilized and is so noted.

It is very important to respect people's desired self-identifications. One should never assume another person's identity based on that person's appearance. It is always best to ask people how they identify, including what pronouns they prefer, and to respect their wishes. Many people don't like to use any of the labels in this list. If you have any legitimate questions about proper usage or one's preference, just ask (before you offend.)

If you know of any terminology that we may have missed, please let us know. Send us an e-mail to [dcf.webmaster@ct.gov](mailto:dcf.webmaster@ct.gov)

## A

**Ag / Aggressive:** (See Stud)

**Advocate:** a person who actively works to end intolerance, educates others, and support social equity for a group

**Agender / Agendered:** (see Androgyny)

**Ally:** Typically any non-LGBT person who supports and stands up for the rights of LGBT people, though LGBT people can be allies, such as a lesbian who is an ally to a transgender person.

**Ambigender:** (see Androgyny)

**Androgyny (or Androgyne):** a gender expression that has elements of both masculinity and femininity. is a term derived from the Greek words that can refer to either of two related concepts about gender: the mixing of masculine and feminine characteristics, as in fashion statements. An androgyne in terms of gender identity, is a person who does not fit cleanly into the typical masculine and feminine gender roles of their society. They may also use the term ambigender to describe themselves. Many androgynes identify as being mentally "between" woman and man, or as entirely genderless. They may class themselves as non-gendered, genderneutral, agendered, between genders, intergendered, bigendered,"pangender' or genderfluid.

**Androsexual/Androphilic:** attracted to males, men and/or masculinity.

Androphilia: is attraction to adult males from age 20 to 50s from either sex. Androphilia was originally coined to describe age aspect of erotic orientation of male homosexuals. The term "androphilia" are also used to distinguish attractions to adults from pederasty and pedophilia. These describe types of chronophilia and within that, androphilia and gynephilia collectively refer to two variable forms of teleiophilia. The words "androphilia" describe one's sex/gender orientation independently of his/her sex/gender; this usage is useful especially for talking about orientation of trans people, as well as for generally androphilia.

**NOTE:** *The term androphilia is used when referring to the sexual orientation of transgender, intersex, and other genderqueer or intergender people, since the terms homosexual (same-sex) and heterosexual (different-sex) can be unclear. In describing an individual's sexual orientation as homosexual or heterosexual, one is not only saying something about the sex/gender that person desires, but also something about their own sex/gender — specifically, that their sex and/or gender is the same as, or different from, that of those they desire. Difficulties in making these judgments can be seen, for example, in debates about whether female-attracted transmen are a part of the lesbian community. Androphilia is often preferred, because rather than focusing on the sex or gender of the subject, they only describe that of the object of their attraction. The third common term that describes sexual orientation, bisexuality, makes no claim about the subject's sex or gender identity.*

**Anti-Gay propaganda:** (See Homophobic propaganda)

**Apothisexual:** is someone under the asexual umbrella who is specifically sex repulsed. The word "apothisexual" stems from the Greek root "apothisan" meaning repulsed. aka: "sex-repulsed asexual"

**Aromantic:** a person who experiences little or no romantic attraction to others," according to Asexuality.org. The site also notes that "aromantics do not lack emotional/personal connection, but simply have no instinctual need to develop connections of a romantic nature. Aromantics can have needs for just as much empathetic support as romantics, but these needs can be fulfilled in a platonic way." Being aromantic is usually "considered to be innate and not a personal choice," in the same way that asexuality is considered innate.

**Asexual:** a person who generally does not experience or feel a sexual attraction (or very little) to any group of people. Asexuality is not the same as celibacy. A sexual orientation describing individuals who do not experience sexual attraction or do not have interest in or desire for sex. Sometimes, it is considered a lack of a sexual orientation. One commonly cited study placed the incidence rate of asexuality at 1%. Asexuality is distinct from celibacy, which is the deliberate abstention from sexual activity.

## B

**BDSM:** (Bondage, Discipline/Domination, Submission/Sadism, and Masochism ) The terms 'submission/sadism' and 'masochism' refer to deriving pleasure from inflicting or receiving pain, often in a sexual context. The terms 'bondage' and 'domination' refer to playing with various power roles, in both sexual and social context. These practices are often misunderstood as abusive, but when practiced in a safe, sane, and consensual manner can be a part of healthy sex life. (Sometimes referred to as 'leather'.)

**Balls (as in Gala or Ballroom):** are elaborate events where "walkers" compete in a series of categories emulating high fashion, style or a way of being. Some ball participants- also described as those who walk the balls- feel the ball circuit provides an escape from the everyday perils of gay life

on the "outside," including homophobia and hate. Balls not only become a display of personal pride, but allow participants to freely express themselves through high fashion, glamour and grand presentation. The winner of a ball category can become legendary in the ball circuit, just a star becomes legendary by winning an Oscar. The ball circuit has evolved over time and competition categories have expanded. Categories are heavily judged on realness and range from butch queen realness to drag queen realness to sex siren. Balls can also be an opportunity for gay house members to gather or compete against other houses. To learn more about balls or to get a glimpse of the action, see the documentary Paris Is Burning.

**Bathroom of Least Astonishment:** Employers facing the restroom issue surrounding transgender individuals are legally inclined to apply the "Principle of Least Astonishment", which states that a person who presents as a woman will be less astonishing to others when using the women's restroom, rather than the men's, vice versa for a person presenting as a man. If a concern arises, from the another employee, the employer must provide alternative solutions for the employee who initiated the complaint, NOT the transgender individual.

**Bear:** (Bear Cubs, Otters, Wolves) is LGBT slang for those in the bear communities, a subculture in the gay/bisexual male communities and an emerging subset of LGBT communities with events, codes and culture-specific identity. It also describes a physical type. Bears tend to have hairy bodies and facial hair; some are heavy-set; some project an image of working-class masculinity in their grooming and appearance, though none of these are requirements or unique indicators. Some bears place importance on presenting a hyper-masculine image and may shun interaction with, and even disdain, men who exhibit effeminacy. The bear concept can function as an identity, an affiliation, and an ideal to live up to, and there is ongoing debate in bear communities about what constitutes a bear. There is also, anecdotally, more acceptance of tattoos and body piercing in the bear community. Bears are almost always gay or bisexual men, although increasingly transgender men (transmen) and those who shun labels for gender and sexuality are also included within bear communities. Bears and cubs are husky hairy men. Older men are Bears, younger men are Cubs, Otters are skinny or thin bears and Wolves are very aggressive Otters.

**Berdache:** A generic term used to refer to a third gender person. The term "berdache" is generally rejected as inappropriate, derogatory and offensive by Native Peoples because it is a term that was assigned by European settlers to differently gendered Native Peoples. Appropriate terms vary by tribe and include: 'one-spirit', 'two-spirit', and 'wintke.'

**Between Genders:** (see Androgyny)

**Bias-Motivated Incident:** A bias-motivated incident is a non-criminal act (e.g., name-calling, verbal abuse, etc.) motivated by bias, hate, or prejudice toward another person's real or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, disability or gender. Bias is usually caused by ignorance, not malfeasance or malcontent.

**Bi:** (See Bisexual/ity)

**Bicurious:** is a term used to refer to someone who does not identify as bisexual or homosexual but feels or shows some curiosity in a relationship or sexual activity with someone of the same sex. The term can also apply to a person who generally identifies as homosexual but feels or shows some interest in having a relationship with someone of the opposite sex. The terms homoflexible and heteroflexible are also applied to bicuriousity. The term bi-curious implies that the individual has had no sexual experience—or very little—of that sort, but may continue to self-identify as bi-curious if they do not feel they have adequately explored these feelings, or if they do not wish to identify as bisexual.

**Bicertain:** (see Bisexual/ity)

**Bigender:** (see Androgyny) a person who fluctuates between traditionally “woman” and “man” gender-based behavior and identities, identifying with both genders (and sometimes a third gender). Refers to people who define themselves as having the behavioral, cultural or psychological characteristics associated with both the male and female genders.

**Binary Gender:** a traditional and outdated view of gender, limiting possibilities to “man” and “woman.”

**Binary model:** A model that presupposes everyone to be exclusively male or female.

**Binding:** The process of flattening one’s breasts to have a more masculine or flat appearing chest. Most often used by a female trying to present as a male.

**Bi-Questioning:** The questioning of one's gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, or all three. It is a process of exploration by people who may be unsure, still exploring, and concerned about applying a social label to themselves for various reasons. The letter "Q" is sometimes added to the end of the acronym LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender); the "Q" can refer to either queer or questioning. Many LGBT student groups and literature include questioning in their literature; in the case of gay-straight alliance (GSA's) groups they do so in part so students are not compelled to label themselves or choose a sexual identity.

**Binary Sex:** a traditional and outdated view of sex, limiting possibilities to “female” or “male.”

**Binational Couple:** is considered binational when each partner is a legal resident of a different country. This often poses a problem for gay binational couples that seek to live together.

**Biological Sex:** identifies a person as either female, male or intersex. It is determined by a person’s sexual anatomy, chromosomes and hormones. Biological sex is often referred to as “sex.”

**Biphobia/Biphobic:** Aversion toward bisexuality and bisexual people as a social group or as individuals. People of any sexual orientation can experience such feelings of aversion. Biphobia is a source of discrimination against bisexuals, and may be based on negative bisexual stereotypes or irrational fear.

**Bisexual/ity:** A person who is attracted to both men and women — (female or male) a person who is (or can be) attracted emotionally, romantically and sexually to both males and females. Individuals can be attracted to either sex equally or to one more than the other.

**Bisexual Chic:** is a phrase used to describe the public acknowledgment of bisexuality among various segments of society. In some cases the phrase can be considered pejorative, when used to trivialize or dismiss genuine feelings of same-sex attraction, especially if those expressing these thoughts continue to exhibit otherwise heteronormative behaviors.

**Bisexual Erasure:** is the tendency to ignore, remove, falsify, or re-explain evidence of bisexuality in historical records, academic materials, the news media, and other primary sources. In its most extreme form, bisexual erasure can include denying that bisexuality exists. Bisexual erasure may stem from a belief that the bisexual community does not deserve equal status or inclusion within gay and lesbian communities. This can take the form of omitting the word bisexual in the name of an organization or event that serves the whole LGBT community.

**Bisexous:** (See Bisexual/ity)

**Biological Sex:** the physical anatomy and gendered hormones one is born with, generally described as male, female, or intersex, and often confused with gender

**Bromance** (see homosocial): or a "man-crush" is a close but non-sexual relationship between two men, a form of homosocial intimacy. Coined in the 1990s, the term has historically referred to a relationship between heterosexuals, but the term has gained currency in describing such relationships when one of the men is gay.

**Bottom:** A person who is said to take a more submissive or passive role during sexual interactions. Sometimes referred to as 'pasivo' in Latin American cultures. Also known as 'catcher' or "receiver" although both terms are deemed as derogatory. (See also 'Top'.)

**Bottom Surgery:** Surgery on the genitals designed to create a body in harmony with a person's preferred gender expression. This terminology is appropriate for use with both MTFs and FTMs.

**Bullying:** behavior designed to hurt someone. Can be physical, mental and/or emotional. A person does not need to actually be LGBT to be homophobically or transphobically bullied, but merely "perceived" to be LGBT. Homophobia and transphobia form the motive behind a disproportionately high amount of bullying.

**Butch:** (and Femme) are LGBT terms describing respectively, masculine and feminine traits, behavior, style, expression, self-perception, etc. - they are often used in the lesbian, bisexual and gay subcultures. A similar term, en femme is also frequently used in the crossdressing community. Sometimes butch is used synonymously with dyke. Butch and femme are sometimes used to represent two sides of a relationship, as in yin and yang, although some people prefer butch-but and femme-femme relationships.

## C

**Catcher:** (See Bottom) This term is considered offensive and derogatory by most people.

**Celibacy:** is voluntarily being unmarried, sexually abstinent, or both, usually for religious reasons. It is often in association with the role of a religious official or devotee. In its narrow sense, the term celibacy is applied only to those for whom the unmarried state is the result of a sacred vow, act of renunciation, or religious conviction. In a wider sense, it is commonly understood to only mean abstinence from any and all sexual activity.

**Celebrate Diversity:** To celebrate diversity and difference means to accentuate the positive values of a diverse society as a method of promoting equality and human rights.

**Cisgender:** a description for a person whose gender identity, gender expression, and biological sex all align (e.g., man, masculine, and male). Types of gender identity where an individual's experience of their own gender matches the sex they were assigned at birth.

**Cis-man:** a person who identifies as a man, presents himself masculinely, and has male biological sex, often referred to as simply "man" or male.

**Cis-woman:** a person who identifies as a woman, presents herself femininely, and has female biological sex, often referred to as simply "woman" or female.

**Circuit Parties or "The Circuit":** refers to an ongoing series of gay themed parties thrown in pretty much every major metropolitan area in the country at various times throughout the year. The gay circuit is a modern offshoot of the rave movement, which hit its apex in the early-to-mid 90s, and has since dwindled. Circuit parties are characterized by huge, overwhelmingly male crowds – larger

events can draw as many as 25,000 attendees – multiple DJs spinning various permutations of house music, elaborate lighting and decoration, live musical or theatrical performances, and shameless glow-stick waving. Some circuit events – like the Black Party in New York – are for-profit endeavors, but many are held as benefits for local GLBT and HIV/AIDS-related charities. The quintessential circuit party is a block of annual, one-night-only events held throughout a given city over a single weekend. There are A-list parties, like the Black Party in New York (in March), the Cherry series in Washington, D.C. (in May), the White Party in Palm Springs (April), and the Black and Blue Ball in Montreal (October), and smaller events, like Fireball in Chicago (February), the Purple Party in Dallas (May), and Blue Ball in Philadelphia (January).

**Civil Unions:** a voluntary union for life (or until divorce) of adult parties of the same sex, similar to marriage, a civil union is a legally recognized union similar to marriage, which began in Denmark in 1989, a commitment made by two persons who consent to live together. The civil union is contracted openly before a competent celebrant and is witnessed through a civil union act. Many states allowed civil unions, prior to allowing civil marriage.

**Closeted/"In the Closet":-** Describes a person who keeps their sexual orientation or gender identity a secret from some or all people.

**Coming Out:** The process of acknowledging one's sexual orientation and/or gender identity to other people. For most LGBT people this is a life-long process.

**Corrective rape:** is a hate crime in which women (mostly lesbians) are raped because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. The common intended consequence of the rape, as seen by the perpetrator, is to turn the person heterosexual or to enforce conformity with gender stereotypes. It may also involve rape of a person for their social or political views (such as feminism), or for their promiscuity. The term "corrective rape" was coined in South Africa after well-known cases of corrective rapes of lesbians like Eudy Simelane (who was also murdered in the same attack) and Zoliswa Nkonyana became public. Although some countries have laws protecting LGBT people, corrective rape is often found in South African countries and overlooked and accepted by male dominated cultures. The actual act is sometimes supervised by members of the woman's family or the local community.

**Cross-dress / er / ing:** Men and women who enjoy wearing the clothes of, or appearing as, the other gender. Both heterosexuals and homosexuals can be cross-dressers, though the majority of cross-dressers are heterosexual men. (Replaces the outdated and sometimes perceived to be derogatory term, 'transvestite')

**Cubs:** (see Bears)

## D

**D&D Free:** An abbreviation for drug and disease free.

**Demisexual:** Someone who identifies as demisexual doesn't typically feel sexual attraction unless they "have already formed a strong emotional bond with the person."

[Asexualityarchive.com](http://Asexualityarchive.com) also notes that "the bond may or may not be romantic in nature."

**Demioromantic:** Similar to a demisexual, the individual doesn't feel romantic attraction "unless they have already formed a strong emotional bond with the person."

**Disco Related Injury (DRI):** An injury (physical or emotional) that occurs while dancing at a club. Can also be known as a "tragic" and "embarrassing" event! Example: Once, while dancing like a

mad man at a club, I slipped off the stage, ripping my pants and spraining my ankle. My friends will never let me forget this disco related injury.

**Discrimination:** Prejudice + power. It occurs when members of a more powerful social group behave unjustly or cruelly to members of a less powerful social group. Discrimination can take many forms, including both individual acts of hatred or injustice and institutional denials of privileges normally accorded to other groups. Ongoing discrimination creates a climate of oppression for the affected group.

**Diva:** (This terminology may be considered offensive and/or derogatory to some, while ironically, others may celebrate and embrace it.) A gay man, drag queen or woman that presents themselves as a strong-willed, confident and sometimes arrogant person. A diva is considered an icon to be admired for their beauty and pose. Sometimes referred to as a Queen Bee.

**Domestic Partnership:** was the precursor to civil unions and eventually full marriage equality. Two individuals of the same gender who are in a committed relationship of indefinite duration with an exclusive mutual commitment similar to that of marriage. It is a legal or personal relationship between two individuals who live together and share a common domestic life but are neither joined by marriage, nor a civil union.

**Dominant Culture:** The cultural values, beliefs, and practices that are assumed to be the most common and influential within a given society.

**Down Low (or On the Down Low):** The Down Low (also known as "DL") refers to closeted bisexual men who have sex with men without the knowledge of their female partners. Men, originally of Black or Hispanic descent but now are found in all ethnic groups, who discreetly have sex with other men while in sexual relationships with women (usually their wife's or girlfriends) are said to be on the "down low." Often these men do not consider themselves gay or bisexual and their female partners are not aware that they have sex with other men. Not all men in the closet are on the down low. However, most men on the down low are in the closet.

**DRAG:** Dressed, representing a Girl. Originally coined by William Shakespeare and his contemporaries as side note directions in his plays.

**Drag King:** are mostly female performance artists who dress in masculine drag and personify male gender stereotypes as part of their routine. A typical show may incorporate dancing and singing, sometimes live or lip-synching to pre-recorded tracks. Drag kings often perform as exaggeratedly macho male characters, portray marginalized masculinities such as construction workers, rappers, or they will impersonate male celebrities like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, and Tim McGraw.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s several drag kings became British music hall tars, and British pantomime as preserved the tradition of women performing in male roles. Starting in the mid-1990s drag kings have begun to gain some of the fame and attention that drag queens have known.

**Drag Queen:** is a person, traditionally male, who dresses in drag and often acts with exaggerated femininity and in female gender roles. Often they will exaggerate certain characteristics such as make-up and eyelashes for comic, dramatic or satirical effect. While drag is very much associated with gay men and gay culture, there are drag artists of all genders and sexualities. There are many kinds of drag artists and they vary greatly in dedication, from professionals who have starred in films to people who just try it once. Drag queens can vary by class and culture. Other drag performers include drag kings, women who perform in male roles and attire, faux queens, who are women who dress in an exaggerated style to emulate drag queens, and faux kings, who are men who dress to impersonate drag kings.

There are many reasons people do drag including self-expression, performing and entertaining. Drag can be a creative outlet, a means of self-exploration, and a way to make cultural statements. Typical drag queen activities include lip-synching performances, live singing, dancing, participating in events such as gay pride parades, drag pageants, or at venues such as cabarets and discotheques. Some drag artists also engage in mix-and-mingle or hosting work in night clubs, and at private parties and events. Famous drag queens include Divine, Dame Edna Everage, Hed-a-Lettuce, Lady Bunny, RuPaul, Willam, Bianca Del Rio, Courtney Act, Jackie Beat, and Lypsinka.

**Dyke:** (This terminology may be considered offensive and/or derogatory). is slang terminology referring to a masculine lesbian regardless of the person's actual sexual identity. Originally, it was a derogatory label for a masculine or butch woman, however this usage still exists. It has sometimes been adopted affirmatively by lesbians (not necessarily masculine ones) to refer to themselves.

## E

**Eco-sexual(ity):** A term describing a person, in a dating sense, who is social and environmentally conscious. Similar to metrosexual, but for someone who wears and buys organic items and drives a hybrid car.

**Ephhebophiles:** refers to a sexual preference for individuals from mid- to late-adolescence usually 15-20's.

**Equality:** The concept that all people should be treated as equals and be given the same political, economic, social and civil rights.

**Equal Opportunities :** The concept that everyone should have equal access to jobs, services, housing, health etc. whatever their race, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender etc. All European countries have equalities legislation but it varies in extent.

## F

**FTM / F2M:** A trans person who is transitioning from female to male.

**Fag / Faggot:** **DEFINATELY a derogatory term** referring to someone perceived as non-hetero-normative and should never be used. This term is most often used as a precursor to violence. (Similar to the negative aspects and connotations of the "N" word in African-American culture.)

**Fag Hag:** A term primarily used to describe women who prefer the social company of gay men. While this term is claimed in an affirmative manner by some, it is largely regarded as derogatory and should not be used.

**Family:** Two or more persons who share resources, share responsibility for decisions, share values and goals, and have commitments to one another over a period of time. The family is that climate that one comes home to; and it is that network of sharing and commitments that most accurately describes the family unit, regardless of blood, legalities or adoption or marriage

**Family of Choice:** Persons forming an individual's close social support network, often fulfilling the function of blood relatives. Many gay persons are rejected when families learn of their sexual orientation, while others may remain closeted to biological relatives. In such cases, it is the families of choice who will be called upon in times of illness or personal crisis.

**Family of Origin:** Biological family or the family in which one was raised. May or may not be a part of a person's support system after they "come out."

**Femme:** (also spelled "Fem") LGBT term describing feminine traits, behavior, style, expression, self-perception, etc. They are often used in the lesbian, bisexual and gay subcultures. A similar term, "en femme" is also frequently used in the cross dressing community. Used to describe a feminine lesbian, also sometimes referred to as a "lipstick Lesbian" with may or may not be perceived as a derogatory.

**Female:** a person with a specific set of sexual anatomy (e.g., 46,XX phenotype, vagina, ovaries, uterus, breasts, higher levels of estrogen, fine body hair) pursuant to this label. Of or denoting the sex that can bear offspring or produce eggs, distinguished biologically by the production of gametes (ova) that can be fertilized by male gametes.

**Flexual:** (See Bisexual)

**Fluid / ity:** generally with another term attached, like gender-fluid or fluid-sexuality, fluid(ity) describes an identity that is a fluctuating mix of the options available (e.g., man and woman, gay and straight); not to be confused with "transitioning."

**Friend of Dorothy:** In gay slang, a "friend of Dorothy" (occasionally abbreviated FOD) is a term for a gay man. The phrase dates back to at least World War II, when homosexual acts were illegal in the United States. Stating that, or asking if, someone was a "friend of Dorothy" was a euphemism used for discussing sexual orientation without others knowing its meaning.

**Freedom Flag:** (See Rainbow Flag)

## G

**GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance):** is an abbreviation for Gay-Straight Alliance, an alliance of students of all inherent sexualities (LGBT and straight) dedicated to fighting homophobia on campus and improving the lives of all students.

**Gay:** A person who is attracted only to members of the same sex. Although it can be used for any sex (e.g. gay man, gay woman, gay person), "lesbian" is usually the preferred term for women who are attracted to women.

**Gay Bashing / Gay Bullying:** is verbal or physical abuse against a person who is perceived by the aggressor to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, including persons who are actually heterosexual or of non-specific or unknown sexual orientation.

A "bashing" may be a specific incident, and one could also use the verb to bash (e.g. "I was gay bashed."). A verbal gay bashing might use sexual slurs, expletives, intimidation, threats of violence, or actual acts of violence. It also might take place in a political forum and include one or more common anti-gay slogans.

Gay bullying involves intentional and unprovoked actions toward the victim, repeated negative actions by one or more people against another person, and an imbalance of physical or psychological power. Similar terms such as lesbian bullying, queer bullying, and queer bashing are also utilized.

**Gay Curious:** (See Questioning)

**Gay Female:** (see Lesbian)

**Gay Houses:** (see Houses)

**Gay Male:** A man who experiences the human need for warmth, affection, and love from another man. This may or may not include sexual contact.

**Gayby / Gaybe / Gaybies:** A child or children of a gay couple or individual. Used when talking about for both Lesbian/Gay couples and individuals.

**Gayborhood:** A gay-friendly or predominately gay neighborhood, most often one that has been re-gentrified.

**Gaydar:** A word formed from the root words gay and raydar. The ability of one homosexual person to distinguish other homosexuals or bisexuals from heterosexuals. A sixth sense or intuition that is based upon the observation of physical and personality traits to make an inference about another's sexual identity.

**Gender:** An individual's basic self-conviction of being male or female. This conviction is not entirely contingent upon the individual's biological sex. The exact process by which boys and girls come to see themselves as male or female is not known. However, research indicates that gender identity develops some time between birth and 3 years of age.

**Gender Binary:** (Gender Neutral Binary) is the idea that human gender exists in only two forms: masculine and feminine, pink and blue. The term also describes the system in which a society divides people into male and female gender roles, gender identities and attributes. Gender role is one aspect of a gender binary. Every known society has used the gender binary to divide and organize people, though the ways this happen differ among societies. A universal aspect of the gender binaries is that women give birth. Gender binaries exist as a means of bringing order. Certain notable religions are often used as authorities for the justification and description. Islam, for example, teaches that mothers are the primary care givers to their children and Catholics believe only males may serve as priests.

Exceptions have widely existed to the gender binary in the form of transgendered people. Besides the biological identification of intersexuals, elements strictly of the opposite sex have been taken by people biologically female and male such as two-spirited Native Americans and hijra of Indians. In the contemporary West, transgendered break the gender binary in the form of genderqueer, drag queens, and drag kings. Transsexuals have a unique place in relation to the gender binary because they transition from one side of the gender binary to the other.

The terms androgyny, intergender, bigender, multigender, third gender, neuter/neutrois/agender, and gender fluid may also be used to describe where one lies on a gender spectrum or in gender spheres outside of the normal binary genders.

**Gender Bending:** (See Transgender)

**Gender Blending:** (See Transgender)

**Gender Characteristics:** characteristics such as facial hair or vocal pitch.

**Gender Dysphoria:** is the formal diagnosis used by psychologists and physicians to describe persons who experience significant gender dysphoria (discontent with the biological sex they were born with). It is a psychiatric classification and describes the attributes related to transsexuality, transgender identity, and transvestism. Gender identity disorder in children is usually reported as "having always been there" since childhood, and is considered clinically distinct from GID which appears in adolescence or adulthood, which has been reported by some as intensifying over time.

**Gender Confirming Surgery:** (See Sex Reassignment Surgery): Medical surgeries used to modify

one's body to be more congruent with one's gender identity.

**Gender Correction Surgery:** (See Sex Reassignment Surgery): Medical surgeries used to modify one's body to be more congruent with one's gender identity.

**Gender Cues:** What human beings use to attempt to tell the gender/sex of another person. Examples include hairstyle, gait, vocal inflection, body shape, facial hair, etc. Cues vary by culture.

**Gender Diverse:** A person who either by nature or by choice does not conform to gender-based expectations of society (e.g. transgender, transsexual, intersex, genderqueer, cross-dresser, etc.) preferable to "gender variant" because it does not imply a standard normativity.

**Gender Expression:** The manner in which a person outwardly expresses their gender. A term which refers to the ways in which we each manifest masculinity or femininity. It is usually an extension of our "gender identity," our innate sense of being male, female, etc. Each of us expresses a particular gender every day – by the way we style our hair, select our clothing, or even the way we stand. Our appearance, speech, behavior, movement, and other factors signal that we feel – and wish to be understood – as masculine or feminine, or as a man or a woman. A person's inner sense of self as male, female or somewhere in between. Most people develop a gender identity that corresponds to their biological sex but many do not.

**Gender Fluid:** (See Androgyny)

**Gender Identity:** A person's inner sense of self as male, female or somewhere in between. Most people develop a gender identity that corresponds to their biological sex but many do not. The sense of "being" male, female, genderqueer, agender, etc. For some people, gender identity is in accord with physical anatomy. For transgender people, gender identity may differ from physical anatomy or expected social roles. It is important to note that gender identity, biological sex, and sexual orientation are separate and that you cannot assume how someone identifies in one category based on how they identify in another category.

**Gender Identity Disorder:** (See Gender Dysphoria) The medical diagnosis in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostics and Statistics Manual IV (DSM4) used to describe a person who experiences significant gender dysphoria (lack of identification with one's sex and/or gender assigned at birth). It is anticipated that the DSM5 (released in 2013) will replace this diagnosis with "gender dysphoria."

**Gender-Inclusive:** (See Gender Neutral)

**Genderism:** (see Gender Oppression) The system of belief that there are only two genders (men and women) and that gender is inherently tied to one's sex assigned at birth. It holds cisgender people as superior to transgender people, and punishes or excludes those who don't conform to society's expectations of gender.

**Genderless:** (See Androgyny)

**Gender-Neutral:** (See Androgyny) Inclusive language to describe relationships ("spouse" and "partner" instead of "husband/boyfriend" and "wife/girlfriend"), spaces (gender-neutral/inclusive restrooms are for use by all genders), pronouns ("they" and "ze" are gender neutral/inclusive pronouns) among other things.

**Gender Neutral Restrooms:** Bathroom lavatory facilities which anyone can utilize.

**Gender Non-Conform / ing / ity:** means not expressing gender or not having gender characteristics or a gender identity that conforms to others' expectations. Much, perhaps most, of the harassment LGBT students experience is related to gender and gender nonconformity.

**Gender Normative** (Also referred to as 'Genderstraight'.): A person who by nature or by choice conforms to gender based expectations of society.

**Gender Oppression:** The societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that privilege cisgender (gender-typical people) and subordinate and disparage transgender or gender variant people. Also known as "genderism."

**Genderqueer:** Any LGBT person whose gender presentation is an intentional mixture of gender signifiers, usually a political identity in support of transgender persons and against the binary gender system.

**Genderstraight:** (See Gender Normative)

**Gender Roles:** Socially constructed and culturally specific behaviors and appearance expectations imposed on men and women, similar to gender binary roles of pink and blue.

**Gender Variant / Variance:** A person who either by nature or by choice does not conform to gender-based expectations of society (e.g. transgender, transsexual, intersex, genderqueer, cross-dresser, etc.).

**Gerontophiles:** refers to a preference for older men, over the age of 50's.

**Graysexual:** Jared, one man who identifies as graysexual, defines the term as a "magical place between asexual and someone who is sexual." The Frisky defines it as "something more fluid between sexuality and asexuality." Those who identify as graysexual might also identify as gay or straight or any other sexual identity inside or outside of the binary.

**Gynephilia / Gynosexual / Gynephilic:** is the attraction to adult females from age 20 to 50s. Gynephilia is philologically inconsequent, as it takes the nominative instead of the root, and would have as its counterpart anerphilia not androphilia; while gynophilia is formed in violation of Greek word formation rules. The term gynophilia is used to mean "attraction to adult women", in contrast with pedophilia, with the aim of therapy usually being to replace pedophilic desires with teleiophilic ones. The age zone of gynephile interests is defined likewise as in case of androphilia

**NOTE:** The term gynephilia is used when referring to the sexual orientation of transgender, intersex, and other genderqueer or intergender people, since the terms homosexual (same-sex) and heterosexual (different-sex) can be unclear. In describing an individual's sexual orientation as homosexual or heterosexual, one is not only saying something about the sex/gender that person desires, but also something about their own sex/gender — specifically, that their sex and/or gender is the same as, or different from, that of those they desire. Difficulties in making these judgments can be seen, for example, in debates about whether female-attracted transmen are a part of the lesbian community. Gynephilia is often preferred, because rather than focusing on the sex or gender of the subject, they only describe that of the object of their attraction. The third common term that describes sexual orientation, bisexuality, makes no claim about the subject's sex or gender identity.

## H

**Hasbian:** A lesbian who has chosen to suppress her inherent sexuality and feelings towards the same sex and live a heterosexual lifestyle.

**Hate Crime:** A criminal act (e.g., graffiti, threatened violence, hitting, etc.) motivated by bias, hate, or prejudice towards another person's real or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, disability or gender.

Hate Motivated Offenses: Assault, rape, arson, and murder are crimes under any circumstance, but when a victim of such a crime was targeted simply because of their affiliation (or perceived affiliation) with a minority group, the FBI considers the crime a 'hate crime.' In some states, hate crimes carry an additional penalty beyond the standard penalty for assault, murder, etc. Also known as "gay-bashing", acts of intolerance, or hate crimes.

**Hebephilia:** refers to a sexual preference for pubescent youths, usually ages 10-14.

**Hermaphrodite:** (*This terminology is no longer considered appropriate and is often considered offensive and/or derogatory. This term can even be considered an insult to some people and has been replaced with Intersex*) is an animal, plant or human that has both male and female reproductive organs. Many groups of animals (mostly invertebrates), do not have separate sexes. In these groups, hermaphroditism is a normal condition, enabling a form of sexual reproduction in which both partners can act as the "male" or "female". For example, the great majority of snails, slugs and worms are hermaphrodites. Hermaphroditism is also found in some fish, and to a lesser degree in other vertebrates. Historically, the term hermaphrodite has also been used to describe ambiguous genitalia and gonadal mosaicism in individuals of gonochoristic species, especially human beings. The term comes from the name of the minor Greek god Hermaphroditus, son of Hermes and Aphrodite. .

**HetroNormative / Heteronormativity:** is a term for a set of lifestyle norms which indicate or imply that people fall into only one of two distinct and complementary sexes (male and female) with each having certain natural roles in life, and that heterosexuality is the only normal sexual orientation, thus making sexual and marital relations appropriate only between members of the opposite sex. Consequently, a heteronormative view is one that promotes alignment of biological sex, gender identity, and gender roles to the gender binary. Those who identify and criticize heteronormativity say that it distorts discourse by stigmatizing and marginalizing some forms of sexuality and gender, and makes certain types of self-expression more difficult when that expression violates the norm. Non-heterosexual and gender-variant people who transgress heteronormativity include homosexual, bisexual, asexual, intersex, and transgender people in addition to people who are married to or form pair-bonds with more than one partner such as polygamists or polyamorists.

**Hetroflexible:** (See Bisexual)

**Heterosexual/Straight:** A person who is only attracted to members of the opposite sex, who experiences the human need for warmth, affection, and love from persons of the opposite gender. Sometimes this includes sexual contact. A person who is only attracted to members of the opposite sex.

**Heterosexism:** The attitude that heterosexuality is the only valid or acceptable sexual orientation. The system of oppression that reinforces the belief in the inherent superiority of heterosexuality and heterosexual relationships and negates gays', lesbians', bisexuals', and transgenders' lives and relationships. The attitude that heterosexuality is the only valid or acceptable sexual orientation.

**Heterosexual Privilege:** The basic civil rights that a heterosexual person automatically receives that are denied to gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender persons simply because of who they are. receives that are denied to gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender persons simply because of who they are. This is similar to privileges White persons receive because of their race. Examples of heterosexual privilege include:

- being able to display simple affection, e.g., hand-holding, in public without fear of retaliation

- discussing dating relationships without wondering if the conversation will be okay with all participants
- receiving empathy when a relationship ends
- never being afraid of losing a job because of your partner's gender.

**Hijra:** In the South Asian culture, a Hijra is usually considered a member of "the third gender" - neither man nor woman. Most are physically male or intersex, but some are physically female. Hijras usually refer to themselves linguistically as female and usually dress as a women.

**Hir:** A gender-neutral objective and possessive third-person pronoun used largely by the transgendered community.

**HIV-phobia:** The irrational fear or hatred of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

**Homoflexible:** (See Bisexual)

**Homo-Hostility:** (See homophobia, and Gay bashing)

**Homophobia/Homophobic:** Irrational fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against homosexuality or homosexuals. Fear of lesbians and gay men. A range of negative attitudes and feelings toward homosexuality or people who are identified or perceived as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). It can be expressed as antipathy, contempt, prejudice, aversion, or hatred, may be based on irrational fear, and is sometimes related to religious beliefs. Negative feelings, attitudes, actions, or behaviors against lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals, or behaviour that is perceived to uphold and support traditional gender role expectations. The prevalent assumption in Western society is that heterosexuality is the only acceptable sexual orientation. It is likewise a fear of one's own same-sex sexual or affectional feelings as well as an unreasonable fear of being perceived as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.

**Homophobic propaganda** (or anti-gay propaganda) is propaganda based on homo-negativity and homophobia towards homosexual and sometimes other non-heterosexual people. Such propaganda supports anti-gay prejudices and stereotypes, and promotes social stigmatization and/or discrimination. The term homophobic propaganda was used by the historian Stefan Micheler in his work *Homophobic Propaganda and the Denunciation of Same-Sex-Desiring Men under National Socialism*, as well as other works treating the topic. In some countries, some forms of homophobic propaganda are considered hate speech and are prohibited by law.

**Homo-negativity:** (See Homophobic propaganda)

**Homophile:** is an alternative to the word homosexual, preferred by some because it emphasizes love over sex. Coined by the German astrologist, author and psychoanalyst Karl-Günther Heimsoth in his 1924 doctoral dissertation "Hetero- und Homo-philie," the term was in common use in the 1950s and 1960s by homosexual organizations and publications; the groups of this period are now known collectively as the homophile movement. The term "homophile" began to disappear with the emergence of the Gay Liberation movements of the late 1960s and early 1970s, replaced by a new set of terminology such as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender, although some of the homophile groups survive to the present day.

**Homosexual/ity:** A clinical term for people who are attracted to members of the same sex. Some gay men and lesbians find this term offensive, Most people prefer the terms gay or lesbian. Refers to romantic or sexual attraction or behavior among members of the same sex, situationally or in an enduring disposition. Homosexuality is considered to lie within the heterosexual-homosexual continuum of human sexuality, and refers to an individual's identity based on those attractions.

Homosexuality is found in virtually every animal species. The prevalence of homosexuality among humans is difficult to determine accurately; studies suggest between two and twenty percent of the population exhibit some degree of homosexual tendency, though in many earlier cultures homosexual relations were highly prevalent. Throughout history, individual aspects of homosexuality have been admired or condemned according to various societies' sexual norms. When praised, those aspects were seen as a way to improve society; when condemned, particular activities were seen as a sin or a disease, and some homosexual behavior was prohibited by law. Since the middle of the 20th century homosexuality has been delisted as a disease and decriminalized in most developed countries.

Efforts toward emancipation of homosexuality as it is currently understood began in the 1860s; since the mid-1950s there has been an accelerating trend towards increased visibility, acceptance, and civil rights for lesbian, gay and bisexual people. Nevertheless, homophobia persists, and in particular young people subjected to it are at greater risk of socialization difficulties including suicide. Currently, the most common adjectives in use are lesbian for women and gay for men, though some prefer other terms or none at all.

**Homosocial:** of, pertaining to, or exhibiting (usually) non-romantic and non-sexual bonding between two men or two women. Homosocial relationships are often expressed in the form of platonic heterosexual friendships or friendships between gay and straight men. Also sometimes referred to as "bromance," when two straight men enjoy spending lots of time with one another. similar to a couple.

**Homowives:** Straight women who knowingly marry gay guys. Usually in countries other than the United States, commonly in Asia, just for the ability to say that they are married. Usually a marriage of convenience to get their parents to stop hounding them.

**Hormone Therapy:** Usually, synthetic hormones (mostly either estrogen or testosterone) taken to affect things like body shape, hair growth patterns and secondary sex characteristics. Often used by MTF and FTM prior to having sex reassignment surgery.

**Houses:** A family unit of LGBT people, often comprised of individuals who have experienced some form of family rejection (including homelessness) or those that merely seek guidance and mentoring from more experienced LGBT people. Houses are usually led by a house mother or father and the kids of the house sometimes carry the last name of the house founder. For instance, recording artist and entertainer, Kevin Aviance is a member of the House of Aviance. Some, but not all, houses compete against each other at Balls. Different houses have varying criteria for membership and often house members will refer to each other as mother, sister or brother.

**Human Rights:** An agreed criteria that every individual should expect; e.g. justice, freedom of speech and movement etc. Often used with Equality.

**Hypersexual / ity:** is a clinical diagnosis used by mental healthcare researchers and providers to describe extremely frequent or suddenly increased sexual urges or sexual activity.

## I

**Identity Sphere :** The idea that gender identities and expressions do not fit on a linear scale, but rather on a sphere that allows room for all expression without weighting any one expression as better than another.

**Inclusive Language:** Use of gender non-specific language to avoid imposing the limiting assumption of heterosexuality and to present an open social climate for non-heterosexuals.

**Inherent Sexuality:** The sexuality and gender identity a person was born with. The orientation within human beings which leads them to be emotionally and physically attracted to persons of one gender or the other or both. One's sexual orientation or inherent sexuality may be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or asexual. A person's attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex, includes gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual or a person who is not attracted to any sex is asexual.

**Intergender:** Genderqueer and intergender are catchall terms for gender identities other than man and woman. People who identify as genderqueer may think of themselves as being both male and female, as being neither male nor female, or as falling completely outside the gender binary. Some wish to have certain features of the opposite sex and not all characteristics; others want it all. Some genderqueer people see their identity as one of many possible genders other than male or female, while others see "intergender" as an umbrella term that encompasses all of those possible genders. Still others see "genderqueer" as a third gender to complement the traditional two, while others identify as genderless or agender. Intergender and genderqueer people are united by their rejection of the notion that there are only two genders. The term "intergender" can also be used as an adjective to refer to any people who transgress gender, regardless of their self-defined gender identity.

**Institutional Oppression:** Arrangements of a society used to benefit one group at the expense of another through the use of language, media, education, religion, economics, etc.

**Internalized Oppression:** The process by which a member of an oppressed group comes to accept and live out the inaccurate stereotypes applied to the oppressed group.

**Intersex:** A person whose sexual anatomy or chromosomes do not fit with the traditional markers of "female" and "male." For example: people born with both "female" and "male" anatomy (penis, testicles, vagina, uterus); people born with XXY. Intersex describes a person who is born with genitals or chromosomes that are not clearly male or female. At least 1 in 2,000 babies are born with genitals that make it difficult to determine their sex. The archaic and no longer used term is hermaphrodite.

**Internalized Homophobia:** is something that virtually all gays have to confront (or have yet to confront) in their lives. The simple definition is that internalized homophobia refers to negative feelings that we have towards ourselves because of our homosexuality due to the negativity produced by the heteronormative society at large.

**In the Closet:** Describes a person who keeps their sexual orientation or gender identity a secret from some or all people. A phrase used to describe an individual who has not divulged her/his sexual orientation to all or some friends, family, co-workers, and/or the public.

**In the Life:** Often used by communities of color to denote inclusion in the LGBTQ communities.

**Intolerance:** a term meaning bigotry; proscription based on ignorance. Some people confuse 'tolerance' with acceptance because it is the opposite of intolerance. However we 'tolerate' a bad thing, such as a certain level of crime or vandalism in our community. Thus we 'celebrate' rather than 'tolerate'.

**Invisible Minority:** A group whose minority status is not always immediately visible, such as some disabled people and LGBTIQ people. This lack of visibility may make organizing for rights difficult.

**K**

**King (also see Drag King):** (This terminology may be considered offensive and/or derogatory, but conversely, it may also be embraced) are mostly female performance artists who dress in masculine drag and personify male gender stereotypes as part of their performance. A typical drag king routine may incorporate dancing and singing or lip-synching. Drag kings often perform as exaggeratedly macho male characters or impersonate male celebrities like Elvis Presley or Tim McGraw. Some drag kings also disguise themselves as boy bands including, Backstreet Boys, N'Sync, 98 Degrees, 3Deep, and Boyz II Men. Several drag kings became British music hall stars in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and British pantomime has preserved the tradition of women performing in male roles. Starting in the mid 90s drag kings have begun to gain some of the fame and attention that drag queens have known for years.

**Kinsey Scale:** Alfred Kinsey, a renowned sociologist, described a spectrum on a scale of 0 to 6 to describe the type of sexual desire within an individual. 0: Completely Heterosexual – 6: Completely Homosexual, in his 1948 work *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*. The Kinsey Scale is often used to dissect the bisexual community and describe the differences between sexual orientation and sexual preference.

## L

**Leather:** (See BDSM)

**Lesbian:** A woman who is only attracted to other women. A woman who experiences the human need for warmth, affection, sensuality, and love from another woman. This may include sexual contact. Many women prefer this term to "gay" because it connotes unique, female identity. However, some lesbians prefer to refer to themselves as "Gay Women," rather than as lesbian.

**Lesbian Baiting:** The heterosexist notion that any woman who prefers the company of woman, or who does not have a male partner, is a lesbian. Also, a straight man who teases a woman by saying the very tired and cliché lines to the effect of "I can turn you straight - all you need is a good man."

**Lesbian bullying:** See Gay bashing

**Lifestyle:** Inaccurate and very derogatory term used by anti-gay extremists to denigrate lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lives. As there is no one straight lifestyle, there is no one lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender lifestyle.

**LGBT:** Acronyms for "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender."

**LGBT Lifestyles:** (This terminology may be considered offensive and/or derogatory) Some people refer to LGBT individuals in terms of their "lifestyle"; this includes some LGBT individuals themselves. For the most part however, members of the LGBT community prefer to think of their lives as just that; their life, not a "lifestyle."

**LGBPTTQQIIAA+:** any combination of letters attempting to represent all the identities in the queer community, this near-exhaustive one (but not exhaustive) represents Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Intergender, Asexual, Ally, and more...

**LGBT, LGBTQ, LGBTQA, TBLG:** These acronyms refer to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Asexual or Ally. Although all of the different identities within "LGBT" are often lumped together (and share sexism as a common root of oppression), there are specific needs

and concerns related to each individual identity.

**Lipstick Lesbian:** Usually refers to a lesbian with a feminine gender expression. Can be used in either a positive or a derogatory way, depending on who is using it. Is sometimes also used to refer to a lesbian who is seen as automatically passing for heterosexual.

**Lumbersexual:** a man of any sexuality who wears outdoor-type clothes, such as plaid shirts, jeans and boots, and has a beard, but lives a modern, urban lifestyle.

## M

**MTF or M2F:** stands for Male-to-Female (transsexual). A trans person who is transitioning from male to female.

**Male Lesbian:** A male-bodied person who identifies as a lesbian. This differs from a heterosexual male in that a male lesbian is primarily attracted to other lesbian, bisexual or queer identified people. May sometimes identify as gender variant, or as a female/woman.

**Man-crush:** (see bromance)

**Manscaping:** The act of grooming, shaving or trimming hair on the male body. Derived from the word landscaping. Example: Mark has more hair on his back than on his head. He needs some serious manscaping.

**Marginalized:** Excluded, ignored, or relegated to the outer edge of a group/society/community.

**Marriage or Marriage Equality:** A term used to describe a legally or socially recognized marriage between two persons (the spouses may be of the same biological sex or social gender, or opposite sex or gender). Marriage is only equal for everyone in thirty-six states and the District of Columbia

**Metrosexual:** First used in 1994 by British journalist Mark Simpson, who coined the term to refer to an urban, heterosexual male with a strong aesthetic sense who spends a great deal of time and money on his appearance and lifestyle. This term can be perceived as derogatory because it reinforces stereotypes that all gay men are fashion-conscious and materialistic. Often refers to a straight or straight-acting man perceived to have the style, culture and personal and proper grooming practices usually associated with gay men (i.e., manicured nails, manscaping, facials, eyebrow arching, etc.)

**Mixed Marriage:** A marriage, union or partnership where one spouse is gay, bisexual or lesbian and the other is straight.

**Male:** of or denoting the sex that produces small, typically motile gametes, especially spermatozoa, with which a female may be fertilized or inseminated to produce offspring.

**MSM:** Men who have sex with Men. Could be straight men, DL men, gay men or even men that prefer not to use labels or label themselves.

**Multigender:** (see Intergender and Intersex)

## N

**Neuter / Neutrois:** (see Agender)

**"No Homo":** (See Religious Homophobia or Homo-phobia):

**Non-Heterosexual:** is an umbrella term, describing homosexual, bisexual, asexual, and other people who do not identify as heterosexual. The term helps define the "concept of what is the norm and how a particular group is different from that norm". Non-heterosexual is used in feminist and gender studies fields as well as general academic literature to help differentiate between sexual identities chosen, prescribed and simply assumed, with varying understanding of implications of those sexual identities. The term is similar to queer, though less politically charged and more clinical; queer generally refers to being non-normative and non-heterosexual. Some view the term as being contentious and pejorative as it "labels people against the perceived norm of heterosexuality, thus reinforcing heteronormativity". Still others note non-heterosexual is the only term useful to maintaining coherence in research and suggest it "highlights a shortcoming in our language around sexual identity"; for instance, its use can enable bisexual erasure.

**Non-Gendered:** (see Androgyny)

**Non-Op:** A transgender person who does not intend to have surgery.

## O

**On T:** When a person takes the hormone testosterone.

**Omnisexual:** (See Pansexual)

**Openly Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender** - A person who publicly acknowledges their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

**Oppression:** The systematic subjugation of a group of people by another group with access to social power, the result of which benefits one group over the other and is maintained by social beliefs and practices.

**Otter:** (See Bear)

**Out:** Self-admission of same-sex preference. Disclosing same-sex preference to others. No longer "in-the-closet."

**Outing:** The act of revealing an LGBT person's sexual orientation and/or gender identity without that person's consent. Divulging the sexual orientation of an individual without her/his permission.

## P

**Packing:** Usually refers to a female who is wearing a phallic device on the groin and under clothing for any purposes including: (for someone without a biological penis) the validation or confirmation of one's masculine gender identity; seduction; and/or sexual readiness (for one who likes to penetrate another during sexual intercourse). Can also refer to a male with a large groin or sex organ.

**Pangendered:** A person whose gender identity is comprised of all or many gender expressions.

**Pansexual:** A person who experiences sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions, not just people who fit into the standard gender binary (i.e. men and women). is a sexual orientation characterized by the potential for aesthetic attraction, romantic love, or sexual desire for people, regardless of their gender identity or biological sex. Some pansexuals suggest that they are gender-blind; that gender and sex are insignificant or

irrelevant in determining whether they will be sexually attracted to others. For others, an individual's sex, gender expression, or gender identity can be a key factor of attraction, despite the pansexual individual's wide range of sex and gender attractions. The word pansexual is derived from the Greek prefix pan-, meaning "all". In its simplest form, pansexuality denotes the potential of sexual attraction to all genders and beings. It is intended to negate the idea of two genders (as expressed by bi-). The adjective pansexual may also be applied to organizations or events. In this context, the term usually indicates an openness to the involvement of people of all genders and sexual orientations in said organization/event, as well as the pansexual sexual identity.

**Partner:** Primary domestic partner or spousal relationship among same gender couples.

**Passing:** Describes a person's ability to be accepted as their preferred gender/sex or race/ethnic identity, or to be seen as heterosexual.

**Pedophilia:** refers to a sexual preference for children (of any gender), usually under the age of 10. This is a serious federal crime and the predators or perpetrators are mainly straight men.

**Pitcher** (See Versatile, Top): This term may be offensive and derogatory to most people. A person who is said to take a more dominant role during sexual interactions. May also be known as 'Top.'

**Polygamy / ists:** is the practice of being married to more than one husband or wife at a time. The noun polygamy originated from the Late Greek word polygamos, meaning "often married." This practice is most often utilized by members of the Mormon faith.

**Polyamory / ous / ists:** is the practice, desire, or acceptance of intimate relationships that are not exclusive with respect to other sexual or intimate relationships, with knowledge and consent of everyone involved. Often abbreviated as poly, it has been described as "consensual, ethical, and responsible non-monogamy".[2] It may or may not include polysexuality (attraction towards multiple genders and/or sexes).

The term "polyamorous" can refer to the nature of a relationship at some point in time or to a philosophy or relationship orientation (much like gender or sexual orientation). The word is sometimes used in a broader sense, as an umbrella term that covers various forms of multiple relationships, or forms of sexual or romantic relationships that are not sexually exclusive. Polyamorous arrangements are varied, reflecting the choices and philosophies of the individuals involved, though there is disagreement on how broadly the concept of polyamory applies. An emphasis on ethics, honesty, and transparency all around is widely regarded as the crucial defining characteristic.

**Polysexual:** Similar to pansexual, a polysexual person "may be attracted to some gender variant people but not have the capability or desire to be with some others."

**Polysexuality:** (see Polyamory)

**Pomosexual (postmodernism sexuals):** are individuals who challenge assumptions about gender and sexuality. A mentality in which heterosexual women can identify themselves as gay men and gay men can identify themselves as lesbians (or any other combination you can think of). Argues that categories and words can't do justice to the complexity of human sexuality. Example: Bobby is such a pomosexual. He's a straight man who calls himself a lesbian.

**Post Gay:** Term used to describe same-gender-loving individuals that do not identify or associate with mainstream gay culture.

**Post Label:** Term used to describe individuals that prefer not to label their sexual identity as gay, bisexual or straight. Post-label individuals see sexuality as more fluid than the traditionally rigid interpretations of gay or straight.

**Post-Op:** A transgender person who has had surgery.

**Prejudice:** A conscious or unconscious negative belief about a whole group of people and its individual members.

**Pre-Op:** A transgender person who has not had surgery to alter his or her body, though he or she may want this.

**Pride:** (as in "Gay Pride") Not being ashamed of oneself and/or showing your pride to others by coming out, marching, etc. Being honest and comfortable with oneself and others.

## Q

**Queer:** An umbrella term used by some LGBT people to refer to themselves. In the past, this term has been considered offensive and some LGBT people still consider it so. An umbrella term used by some LGBT people to refer to themselves. In the past, this term has been considered offensive and some LGBT people still consider it so. Used by some to refer to themselves, or the community, or a person who is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. Some people feel it is a more inclusive term for issues of race, class, and gender, while others detest it and view it as a pejorative term. The word is now used as an empowering umbrella term for all things LGBT.

**Queer bullying, and Queer bashing:** (see Gay bashing)

**Queeroes:** (Gay heros)

**Queerplatonic Relationships:** Relationships that "are not romantic in nature but they involve very close emotional connections that are often deeper or more intense than what is traditionally considered a friendship."

**Questioning:** A person who is unsure about their sexual orientation or gender identity. A person who is unsure about their sexual orientation or gender identity. Being gay curious and questioning both refer to people who have questions about their sexuality orientation or gender identity. Society assumes that everyone is heterosexual and those that aren't can be questioning their sexual orientation. No one goes through a questioning process about being straight.

## R

**Rainbow Flag:** The Rainbow Freedom Flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker to designate the great diversity of the LGBTIQ community. It has been recognized by the International Flag Makers Association as the official flag of the LGBTIQ civil rights movement.

**Realness:** The ability of a drag queen, transgender or other LGBT person to look like or pass as the opposite gender. Some ball categories are judged based on "realness." Realness may expand beyond gender roles into style or ways of life.

**Religious Homophobia:** In recent years attacks on homosexuals have risen. While the violent crime rate in many areas continues to drop, anti-gay crime is moving in the other direction. The rise of the use of 'no homo' is an expression of homophobia.

# S

**SSM:** Same Sex Marriage

**Same Gender Loving:** (or SGL) A term that emerged in the early 1990's with the intention of offering Black women who love women and Black Men who love men (and other groups of color) a voice, a way of identifying and being that resonated with the uniqueness of Black culture in life. While many black lesbians and gay men do prefer to identify as lesbian and gay, many prefer the more Afrocentric SGL or Same Gendered Loving. It is best to ask the individual for their preference and not to assume. This term was coined by activist Cleo Manago, is a description for homosexuals, particularly in the African American community. It emerged in the early 1990s and is often used by those who prefer to distance themselves from terms that they see as associated with "white-dominated" lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities. The term includes both down-low and openly homosexual persons within the black communities. It is also considered by some to be more descriptive of emotional links between gay men than the identity "gay". Though the term was first used by Manago as an attempt to separate from what he perceives as the "gay, white establishment", its actual meaning however, is not race-specific.

**Same Sex:** an adjective that often pre-fixes terms e.g. same-sex marriage, same-sex relationship

**Same Sex Attraction:** A mostly derogatory term used to describe gay feelings, used by religious organizations or anti-gay ministries to describe men who have feelings for, or sex with other men.

**Sappho, Friend of Sappho, Student of Sappho:** Sappho was an Ancient Greek poet, born on the island of Lesbos. Later Greeks included her in the canonical list of nine lyric poets. Her birth was sometime between 630 and 612 BC, and it is said that she died around 570 BC, but little is known for certain about her life. The bulk of her poetry, which was well-known and greatly admired throughout antiquity, has been lost, but her immense reputation has endured through surviving fragments. The adjectives deriving from her name and place of birth (Sapphic and Lesbian) came to be associated with female homosexuality and a Student or Friend of Sappho is another name for a Lesbian.

**Second Generation Gay:** A gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning person with one or more LGBTQ parents. An LGBT child of same sex parents.

**Sex** - A medical term designating a certain combination of gonads, chromosomes, external gender organs, secondary sex characteristics and hormonal balances. Because usually subdivided into 'male' and 'female', this category does not recognize the existence of intersexed bodies. An act, or series of acts, that humans engage in as part of the expression of their sexual nature and their desire for love and affection.

**Sex Confirmation Surgery:** (See Sex Reassignment Surgery)

**Sex Identity:** How a person identifies physically: female, male, in between, beyond, or neither.

**Sexual Behavior:**

**Sexuality:** A person's exploration of sexual acts, sexual orientation, sexual pleasure, and desire.

**Sex Change Operation:** (see Sex Reassignment Surgery)

**Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS):** (Also known as Gender Confirming Surgery): This involves physically changing one's sex through surgery. It is often accompanied by hormone treatments. A

term used by some medical professionals to refer to a group of surgical options that alter a person's "sex". In most states, one or multiple surgeries are required to achieve legal recognition of gender variance.

**Sexual Minority:** Refers to members of sexual orientations or who engage in sexual activities that are not part of the mainstream. Also refers to members of sex groups that do not fall into the majority categories of male or female, such as intersexuals and transsexuals.

**Sexual Orientation** (also known as Inherent Sexuality): A person's attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex. Includes gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual. The type of sexual, romantic, and/or physical attraction someone feels toward others. Often labeled based on the gender identity/expression of the person and on the gender identity/expression of who they are attracted to.

**Sexual Preference:** This term is most often perceived as a derogatory term and generally it is being mistakenly interchanged with "sexual orientation," creating an illusion that one has a choice (or "preference") in who they are attracted to.

**She-Male:** A very offensive and derogatory term used by individuals who wish to demean MTF trans individuals. **Should never be used - BY ANYONE.**

**Skoliosexual:** According to Genderqueerid.com, skoliosexual refers to "sexual attraction to non-binary identified individuals" or those who do not identify as cisgender. The site also notes that "this does not generally describe an attraction to specific genitalia or birth assignments but rather is an inclusive term."

**Social Model:** a model that sees sexual orientation and/or gender variance as a part of the diversity of the human race. Proponents of the social model will tend to see society and its institutions as the obstacle if LGBT people suffer from discrimination or their needs are not met.

## Spornosexuals

With their painstakingly pumped and chiselled bodies, muscle-enhancing tattoos, piercings, adorable beards and plunging necklines it's eye-catchingly clear that second-generation metrosexuality is less about clothes than it was for the first. Eagerly self-objectifying, second generation metrosexuality is totally tarty. Their own bodies (more than clobber and product) have become the ultimate accessories, fashioning them at the gym into a hot commodity – one that they share and compare in an online marketplace.

**Stealth** (Also referred to as 'going stealth' or 'living in stealth mode'.): This term refers to when a person chooses to be secretive in the public sphere about their gender history, either after transitioning or while successful passing.

**Stem** (See also 'Femme' and 'Stud'.): A person whose gender expression falls somewhere between a stud and a femme.

**Stereotype:** A preconceived or oversimplified generalization about an entire group of people without regard for their individual differences. Though often negative, can also be complimentary. Even positive stereotypes can have a negative impact, however, simply because they involve broad generalizations that ignore individual realities.

**Straight:** Another term for heterosexual.

**Straight-Acting:** A term usually applied to gay men who readily pass as heterosexual. The term implies that there is a certain way that gay men should act that is significantly different from heterosexual men. Straight-acting gay men are often looked down upon in the LGBTQ community for seemingly accessing heterosexual privilege.

**Stone Butch / Femme** (See also 'Butch' and 'Femme'): A person who may or may not desire sexual penetration and/or contact with the genitals or breasts. Sometimes may be perceived as derogatory.

**Stonewall:** On June 28, 1969, NYC police attempted a routine raid on the Stonewall Inn, a working class gay and lesbian bar in Greenwich Village. Unexpectedly, the patrons resisted (ironically, the drag queens were the first ones to stand and fight), and the incident escalated into a riot that continued for several days. Most people look to this event as the beginning of the American Gay Liberation movement and all subsequent LGBT movements and pride events around the world.

**St8 Ally:** (or Straight-Ally) (see Ally)

**Straight:** a man or woman who is attracted to people of the other binary gender than themselves; often referred to as "heterosexual."

**Straightish:** (See Bisexual)

**Straight Supporter:** A person who supports and honors the diversity of sexual orientation, acts accordingly to challenge homophobic remarks and behaviors and explores and understands these forms of bias within him- or herself.

**Stud:** Most often an African-American and/or Latina masculine lesbian, but can also be a very masculine gay male. Also known as 'butch' or 'aggressive'.

**Switch** (See Versatile, Top and Bottom): A person who is both a 'Top' and a 'Bottom', there may or may not be a preference for one or the other.

## T

**Teleiophilia:** A primary (or an exclusive) sexual attraction toward adults of the Third Gender (or Third Sex); a person who does not identify with the traditional genders of "man" or "woman," but identifies with another gender; the gender category available in societies that recognize three or more genders. The terms third gender and third sex describe individuals who are considered to be neither women nor men, as well as the social category present in those societies who recognize three or more genders. The state of being neither male nor female may be understood in relation to the individual's biological sex, gender role, gender identity, or sexual orientation. To different cultures or individuals, a third sex or gender may represent an intermediate state between men and women, a state of being both (such as "the spirit of a man in the body of a woman"), the state of being neither (neuter), the ability to cross or swap genders, or another category altogether independent of male and female. This last definition is favored by those who argue for a strict interpretation of the "third gender" concept.

**Top** (See Versatile, Bottom, Catcher): person who is said to take a more dominant role during sexual interactions. May also be known as 'Pitcher.'

**Top Surgery:** This term usually refers to surgery for the construction of a male type chest (breast reduction) for a female and a breast augmentation (breast enhancement) for a male.

**Tranny:** A derogatory term used to refer to a trans-identified person. Sometimes a term reclaimed by trans\* people for empowerment, but in actuality should never be used - BY ANYONE.

**Transactivism:** The political and social movement to create equality for gender variant persons

**Trans / Transgender:** A person whose gender identity does not correspond to their biological sex. This term has many definitions. It is frequently used as an umbrella term to refer to all people who do not identify with their assigned gender at birth or the binary gender system. This includes transsexuals, cross-dressers, genderqueer, drag kings, drag queens, two-spirit people, and others. Some transgender people feel they exist not within one of the two standard gender categories, but rather somewhere between, beyond, or outside of those two genders.

**Transgender (Trans) Community:** A loose category of people who transcend gender norms in a wide variety of ways. The central ethic of this community is unconditional acceptance of individual exercise of freedoms including gender and sexual identity and orientation.

**Trans-hate** (see Transphobia/Transphobic): The irrational hatred of those who are gender variant, usually expressed through violent and often deadly means.

**Transition:** This term is primarily used to refer to the process a gender variant person undergoes when changing their bodily appearance either to be more congruent with the gender/sex they feel themselves to be and/or to be in harmony with their preferred gender expression.

**Trans-Man:** a person who was assigned a female sex at birth, but identifies as a man; often confused with "transsexual man" or "FTM"

**Transphobia/Transphobic:** The fear or hatred of transgender people or gender non-conforming behavior. Like biphobia, transphobia can also exist among lesbian, gay, and bisexual people as well as among heterosexual people

**Transitioning:** a term used to describe the process of moving from one sex/gender to another, sometimes this is done by hormone or surgical treatments.

**Transsexual:** a person whose gender identity is the binary opposite of their biological sex, who may undergo medical treatments to change their biological sex, often times to align it with their gender identity, or they may live their lives as the opposite sex; often confused with "trans-man"/"trans-woman" The term refers to persons whose anatomy does not match the way they feel and who may desire sex reassignment surgery or hormones. A person whose core gender identity is "opposite" their assigned sex. Transsexuals may live as the opposite sex, undergo hormone therapy, and/or have sex reassignment surgery to "match" their bodies with their true gender identity.

**Transvestite:** a person who dresses as the binary opposite gender expression ("cross-dresses") for any one of many reasons, including relaxation, fun, and sexual gratification; often called a "cross-dresser," and often confused with "transsexual. Someone who dresses in the clothes usually worn by the opposite sex for pleasure, comfort or relaxation. Transvestites may be bisexual, heterosexual, or homosexual. Studies have estimated that as much as 50% of transsexuals are straight/heterosexual men. This generic term also applies for women who dress in traditionally male clothing.

**Triangle:** A symbol of remembrance. Gay men in the Nazi concentration camps were forced to wear the pink triangle as a designation of being homosexual. Women who did not conform to social roles, often believed to be lesbians, had to wear the black triangle. The triangles are worn today as

symbols of freedom, reminding us to never forget.

**Trans-Women:** a person who was assigned a male sex at birth, but identifies as a woman; often confused with "transsexual woman" or "MTF."

**Twink or Twinkie:** is a derogatory gay slang term describing a young or young-looking gay man (usually white and in his late teens or early twenties) with a slender build, little or no body hair, and no facial hair. In some societies, the term chick or chicken is utilized, but means the same thing. The related term twinkle-toes, which implies that a man is effeminate, is also used in a derogatory manner.

**Two Spirit:** (also two spirit, twospirit, 2 or TS): a term traditionally used by Native American people to recognize individuals who possess qualities or fulfill roles of both genders. people are Native Americans who fulfill one of many mixed gender roles found traditionally among many Native Americans and Canadian First Nations indigenous groups. Traditionally the roles included wearing the clothing and performing the work of both male and female genders. The term usually implies a masculine spirit and a feminine spirit living in the same body and was coined by contemporary gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Native Americans to describe themselves and the traditional roles they are reclaiming. There are many indigenous terms for these individuals in the various Native American languages as "what scholars generically refer to as 'Native American gender diversity' was a fundamental institution among most tribal peoples". As of 1991, male and female bodied Two-Spirit people have been "documented in over 130 tribes, in every region of North America and among every type of native culture."

## V

**Versatile:** A versatile gay man enjoys a shared dominance in gay relationships. They are comfortable being the dominant partner, passive partner or both.

**Victimization:** When a person is treated less favorably because they have taken action in respect of discrimination e.g. making a complaint. Victimization is unlawful.

**Visibility:** How visible a group is among the wider public. Young LGBT people often feel 'invisible' because they don't see or hear of anyone like themselves

## W

**WLW:** Women Loving Women or Woman Loving Woman

**Wolf:** (See Bear)

**Womanist:** A term introduced by author Alice Walker to describe women of color who are concerned about the oppression of other women. This term was introduced to embrace women of color who have felt left out of the "feminist" movement due to institutionalized racism,

## Y

**Yestergay:** A gay man who has chosen a heterosexual lifestyle or a gay man who has chosen to no longer embrace or act on his feelings concerning a member of the same gender.

## Z

**Ze:** Alternate pronoun that is gender neutral and preferred by some

gender variant persons. Replaces "he"/"she"

**Zero-Tolerance:** An approach to equality that advocates no acceptance of racism, disablism, agesism, homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, etc. including bullying and childhood name-calling.

**Zir:** Gender neutral pronouns that can be used instead of his/her.

**Zucchini:** The name for a partner who is involved in a queerplatonic relationship, as in "he's my zucchini."

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## **WARNING!! PROBLEMATIC TERMS**

- Problematic: "transgenders," "a transgender"
- Preferred: "transgender people," "a transgender person" Transgender should be used as an adjective, not as a noun. Do not say, "Tony is a transgender," or "The parade included many transgenders." Instead say, "Tony is a transgender man," or "The parade included many transgender people."
- Problematic: "transgendered"
- Preferred: "transgender" The adjective transgender should never have an extraneous "-ed" tacked onto the end. An "-ed" suffix adds unnecessary length to the word and can cause tense confusion and grammatical errors. For example, it is grammatically incorrect to turn transgender into a participle, as it is an adjective, not a verb, and only verbs can be used as participles by adding an "-ed" suffix.
- Problematic: "sex change," "pre-operative," "post-operative"
- Preferred: "transition" Referring to a sex change operation, or using terms such as pre- or post-operative, inaccurately suggests that one must have surgery in order to transition. Avoid overemphasizing surgery when discussing transgender people or the process of transition.

## **WARNING!! DEFAMATORY TERMS**

- Defamatory: "deceptive," "fooling," "pretending," "posing" or "masquerading" Gender identity is an integral part of a person's identity. Do not characterize transgender people as "deceptive," as "fooling" other people, or as "pretending" to be, "posing" or "masquerading" as a man or a woman. Such descriptions are defamatory and insulting.
- Defamatory: "she-male," "he-she," "it," "trannie," "tranny," "shim," "gender-bender" These words only serve to dehumanize transgender people and should not be used.
- Defamatory: "bathroom bill" A new term created and used by far-right extremists to oppose non-discrimination laws that protect transgender people.

## **TRANSGENDER NAMES, PRONOUN USAGE & DESCRIPTIONS**

- Always use a transgender person's chosen name. Often transgender people cannot afford a legal name change or are not yet old enough to change their name legally. They should be afforded the same respect for their chosen name as anyone else who lives by a name other than their birth name (e.g., celebrities).
- Whenever possible, ask transgender people which pronoun they would like you to use. A person who identifies as a certain gender, whether or not that person has taken hormones or had some form of surgery, should be referred to using the pronouns appropriate for that gender.
- If it is not possible to ask a transgender person which pronoun he or she prefers, use the pronoun that is consistent with the person's appearance and gender expression. For example, if a person wears a dress and uses the name Susan, feminine pronouns are appropriate.
- It is never appropriate to put quotation marks around either a transgender person's chosen name or the pronoun that reflects that person's gender identity.
- When describing transgender people, please use the correct term or terms to describe their gender identity. For example, a person who is born male and transitions to become female is a transgender woman, whereas a person who is born female and transitions to become male is a transgender man.

## **WARNING!! OFFENSIVE TERMS TO AVOID**

- Offensive: "homosexual" (n. or adj.)
- Preferred: "gay" (adj.); "gay man" or "lesbian" (n.); "gay person/people" Please use "gay" or "lesbian" to describe people attracted to members of the same sex. Because of the clinical history of the word "homosexual," it is aggressively used by anti-gay extremists to suggest that gay people are somehow diseased or psychologically/emotionally disordered – notions discredited by the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association in the 1970s.
- Offensive: "homosexual relations/relationship," "homosexual couple," "homosexual sex," etc.
- Preferred: "relationship" (or "sexual relationship"), "couple" (or, if necessary, "gay couple"), "sex," etc. Identifying a same-sex couple as "a homosexual couple," characterizing their relationship as "a homosexual relationship," or identifying their intimacy as "homosexual sex" is extremely offensive and should be avoided. As a rule, try to avoid labeling an activity, emotion or relationship "gay," "lesbian" or "bisexual" unless you would call the same activity, emotion or relationship "straight" if engaged in by someone of another orientation.
- Offensive: "sexual preference"
- Preferred: "sexual orientation" or "orientation" The term "sexual preference" is typically used to suggest that being lesbian, gay or bisexual is a choice and therefore can and should be "cured." Sexual orientation is the accurate description of an individual's enduring physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction to members of the same and/or opposite sex and is inclusive of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and straight men and women.
- Offensive: "gay lifestyle" or "homosexual lifestyle"

- Preferred: "gay lives," "gay and lesbian lives" There is no single lesbian, gay or bisexual lifestyle. Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals are diverse in the ways they lead their lives. The phrase "gay lifestyle" is used to denigrate lesbians and gay men, suggesting that their orientation is a choice and therefore can and should be "cured."
- Offensive: "admitted homosexual" or "avowed homosexual"
- Preferred: "openly lesbian," "openly gay," "openly bisexual" Dated term used to describe those who are openly lesbian, gay or bisexual or who have recently come out of the closet. The words "admitted" or "avowed" suggest that being gay is somehow shameful or inherently secretive.

## **WARNING!! DEFAMATORY LANGUAGE**

- **"fag," "faggot," "dyke," "homo," "sodomite," "she-male," "he-she," "it," "shim," "tranny" and similar epithets** The criteria for using these derogatory terms should be the same as those applied to vulgar epithets used to target other groups.
- **"deviant," "disordered," "dysfunctional," "diseased," "perverted," "destructive" and similar descriptions** The notion that being gay, lesbian or bisexual is a psychological disorder was discredited by the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association in the 1970s. Today, words such as "deviant," "diseased" and "disordered" often are used to portray gay people as less than human, mentally ill, or as a danger to society
- **Do not associate gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people or relationships with pedophilia, child abuse, sexual abuse, bestiality, bigamy, polygamy, adultery and/or incest . It's very wrong and offensive.** Being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender is neither synonymous with nor indicative of any tendency toward pedophilia, child abuse, sexual abuse, bestiality, bigamy, polygamy, adultery and/or incest. Such claims, innuendoes and associations often are used to insinuate that lesbians and gay men pose a threat to society, to families, and to children in particular.