



PEERS
ALLIANCE

2SLGBTQ+ - WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

2SLGBTQ+ is an acronym that means:

2-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer

The + is added because people often use “LGBTQ2” to talk about all of the communities included under the “LGBTTTQQA” rainbow!

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Transgender, Two-spirited, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Ally, +Pansexual, +Agender, +Gender Queer, +Bigender, +Gender Variant, +Pangender, and so on.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

Please note, this list is nowhere near exhaustive and the terms included here may mean different things to different people - language is always changing. This document is intended to create a starting point for increasing vocabulary and understanding.

Lesbian - a lesbian is described as a woman who experiences sexual and/or romantic attraction towards other women. This identity label can include trans women or non-binary folks.

Gay - a term used to describe men who experience sexual and/or romantic attraction towards other men. Nowadays, gay has become an umbrella term for anyone who falls under the 2SLGBTQ+ umbrella and is not exclusively used by male-identified folks.

Bisexual - people who experience romantic attraction and/or sexual attraction towards people of diverse identities (i.e. attracted to men and women). People who experience romantic and/or sexual attraction to people of any sex or gender may also identify as bisexual - this is sometimes termed pansexual or queer.

Transgender (Trans or Trans*) - a term that may be used to specifically refer to people who have, or who are, going through a process of gender transition. It is also used as an umbrella term for people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth; sometimes abbreviated to trans. Sometimes an asterisk will be added to the end to include folks who identify with a fluid or non-binary gender.

Two-Spirit - a modern umbrella term used by some North American Indigenous communities to describe same-sex attraction and diverse gender identities. Not all LGBTQ+ Indigenous people identify with the term, nor do all First Nations communities use the term in the same way.

Queer - an umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities – folks who don't identify as straight and/or cisgender. “Queer” can sometimes be used instead of “gay” or “2SLGBTQ+”

Agender - those who identify as having no gender or being without any gender identity. This includes a very broad range of identities that do not conform to traditional gender norms.



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Intersex - a term used for a range of presentations in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that does not fit neatly into society's male-female categories. For example, a person might be born with a vagina, but have mostly male-typical anatomy on the inside, or born with a penis but have ovaries inside, or may be born with genitals that seem to be in-between male-female sex categories.

Non-Binary/Genderqueer/Gender Variant/Gender Non-Conforming/Gender Diverse/Gender Creative – these are all terms for gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or feminine—identities which do not subscribe to traditional gender expressions or roles expected of them in any given society, and fall outside the masculine/feminine binary. People who exhibit gender variance may – or may not - identify as transgender.

Bigender/Gender Fluid - identities where the person moves between feminine and masculine gender identities and behaviours, sometimes depending on context and sometimes depending on preference. Some bigender individuals express two distinct “female/feminine” and “male/masculine” personas, others find that they identify as two genders at the same time.

Pangender - people who feel they identify as all genders.

Pansexual/Omnisexual - sexual attraction, romantic love, or emotional attraction toward people of any sex or gender identity. For pansexual people, gender and sex are insignificant factors in determining attraction.

Demisexual – a person who only experiences sexual attraction after forming a strong emotional bond with another person.

Asexual/Nonsexual - the lack of sexual attraction to anyone, or low interest in participating in sexual activity (low or absent sexual desire). Asexuality may be considered a distinct sexual orientation (like gay or bisexual), or it may be thought of as the lack of sexual orientation.

Questioning - generally refers to the process of exploring one's gender identity and/or sexuality. The term may also be used by people who are unsure about certain aspects of identity and/or folks who are hesitant about adopting a social label for various reasons.

Cisgender - a person whose identity matches the gender associated with their assigned sex. Someone whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth. The terms ‘cis’ and ‘trans’ come from scientific language.

No matter how someone identifies, listen & respect their identity

If you don't understand, ask respectfully

Be open-minded and welcoming