

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS RELATED TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

Ally | A person who is not LGBTQ but shows support for LGBTQ people and promotes equality in a variety of ways.

Bisexual | A person emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to more than one sex, gender or gender identity though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way or to the same degree.

Cisgender (or cis) | someone whose gender identity matches the sex and gender they were assigned at birth; in other words, someone who is not transgender.

Gay | A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same gender.

Gender identity | One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.

Lesbian | A woman who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to other women.

LGBTQ | An acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer."

LGBTQA | LGBTQA is a community of persons of sexual orientations that are known as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer/questioning and allies. This is one way a person may self-identify with a movement toward understanding.

Outing | The act of revealing someone else's sexual orientation or gender identity, normally without their consent. Outing someone can be very hurtful.

Queer | A term people often use to express fluid identities and orientations. Often used interchangeably with "LGBTQ."

Questioning | A term used to describe people who are in the process of exploring their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Reconciling | A used to describe a church that adopts a public statement which specifically welcomes persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Sexual orientation | An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people.

Transgender | An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.