Glossary of Terms

Gender

Sex: (noun) A medical term designating male, female, or intersex historically assigned at birth, usually based on external genitalia (may not correspond in transgender).

Gender identity: (noun) A person’s internal sense of self and how they fit into the world, from the perspective of gender. (Includes female, male, transgender, gender non-conforming, genderqueer)

Gender expression: (noun) The way a person acts, dresses, speaks, and behaves (i.e., feminine, masculine, androgynous). Gender expression does not necessarily correspond to assigned sex at birth or gender identity.

Gender Non-Conforming (GNC)/Nonbinary: (adj.) Someone whose gender identity differs from that which was assigned at birth, but may be less clearly defined than a transgender person.

Genderqueer: (adj.) A term used by some with this range of identities.

Transgender: (noun) A person whose gender identity differs from the sex that was assigned at birth. May be abbreviated to trans.

Cisgender: (adj.) Someone whose sense of personal identity corresponds with the gender assigned to them at birth.

They/Them/Their: Neutral pronouns used by some who have a nonbinary or nonconforming gender identity.

Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation: (noun) Describes sexual attraction only and is not directly related to gender identity.

Pansexual: (adj.) Not limited in sexual choice with regard to biological sex, gender, or gender identity.

Lesbian: (noun) Term used to describe women who are primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to other women.

Gay: (adj.) Term used to describe individuals who are primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the same gender.

Heterosexual: (adj.) A person primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex.

Questioning: (verb, adj.) An individual who is unsure about or is exploring their own sexual orientation.