

# Safe Zone Training

Ramapo College of New Jersey

# Terminology Packet

This is a packet full of LGBTQIA+ terminology. This packet was composed from multiple sources and can be found at the end of the packet.

**\*Please note:** This is not an exhaustive list of terms. This is a living terminology packet, as it will continue to grow as language expands.



This symbol recognizes that the term is a caution term.  
This term may be a derogatory term or should be used with caution.

**A/Ace:** The abbreviation for asexual.

**Aesthetic Attraction:** Attraction to someone's appearance without it being romantic or sexual.

**AFAB/AMAB:** Abbreviation for "Assigned Female at Birth/Assigned Male at Birth"

**Affectional Orientation:** Refers to variations in object of emotional and sexual attraction. The term is preferred by some over "sexual orientation" because it indicates that the feelings and commitments involved are not solely (or even primarily, for some people) sexual. The term stresses the affective emotional component of attractions and relationships, including heterosexual as well as LGBT orientation. Can also be referred to as romantic orientation.

**AG/Aggressive:** See "Stud"

**Agender:** Some agender people would define their identity as not being a man or a woman and other agender people may define their identity as having no gender.

**Ally:** A person who supports and honors sexual diversity, acts accordingly to challenge homophobic, transphobic, heteronormative, and heterosexist remarks and behaviors, and is willing to explore and understand these forms of bias within themselves. As there are marginalized communities within the LGBTQA+ umbrella (transphobia, biphobia, queer people of color, etc...) the term ally can be applied to those within the LGBTQ community who make a significant effort to be fully inclusive.

**Androgyne:** 1. A person appearing and/or identifying as neither a man or woman. 2. A person presenting a gender that is mixed or neutral.

**Androgynous:** The appearance of neither masculine or feminine appearance, or a blend of masculine and feminine.

**Androsexual:** The sexual orientation of anyone who has sexual feelings towards a man.

**Aromantic:** The romantic orientation of someone who experiences little to no romantic attraction. Aromantic people are often satisfied with, but not limited to, platonic relationships.

**Asexual (Ace):** The sexual orientation of someone who does not experience sexual and/or romantic attraction. There is considerable diversity among the asexual community; each asexual person experiences things like relationships, attraction, and arousal somewhat differently. It is distinct from celibacy or sexual abstinence, which are chosen behaviors, while asexuality is not a choice.

**Bear:** 1. A gay or bisexual man who has facial/body hair and a cuddly body. 2. An umbrella term that is often defined as more of an attitude or sense of comfort with natural masculinity and bodies.

**Sub-identities within the bear community:**

**Cub:** A younger or younger-looking version of a bear with a smaller frame.

**Chub:** A heavy-set man who might be described as overweight or obese.

**Dolphin:** A slender, athletic, hairless bear.

**Goldilocks:** A straight woman who associates mostly or exclusively with bears.

**Otter:** A slimmer or less hairy bear regardless of age with a passive personality.

**Wolf:** An aggressive, rugged, and outdoorsy bear.

**Bicurious:** An person who identifies as gay or straight while showing some curiosity for a relationship or sexual activity with a person of the sex they do not favor. **Related terms:** heteroflexible and homoflexible

**Bigender/Pangender/Trigender:** People who feel they are two, three, or all genders. They may shift between these genders or be all of them at the same time.



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**Biphobia:** The fear of, discrimination against, hatred of, or discomfort with people who are bisexual. Biphobia can be seen within the LGBTQA+ community as well as in general society.

**Bioromantic:** A person who is romantically attracted to both sexes or genders or someone who identifies as a member of this community. Bioromantics are not necessarily attracted to both/any sexes or genders.

**Bisexual:** A person who is sexually and/or romantically attracted to both sexes or genders or someone who identifies as a member of this community.

 **Butch:** A person who expresses or presents themselves in a culturally/stereotypically masculine, boyish, way whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally. 'Butch' is sometimes used as a derogatory term for lesbians and can be offensive, but it can also be claimed as an affirmative identity label.

**Cisgender (cis)/Gender Conforming:** A person who by nature or by choice conforms to gender based expectations of society. This term is important in that it does not "other" trans identities.

**Cissexism:** Norms or behaviors that result from the assumption that all people are or should be cisgender. This system of oppression assumes being cisgender is inherently normal and superior and negates transgender individual's lives and relationships.

**Closet:** Used as slang for the state of not publicizing one's sexual identity, keeping it private, living an outwardly heterosexual life while identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender, or not being forthcoming about one's identity. At times, being in the closet also means not wanting to admit one's sexual identity to oneself.

**Coming Out:** A lifelong process in which individuals disclose their own sexual identity or gender identity to themselves or others.

 **Crossdresser:** A person who wears clothing associated with a gender identity other than what the person holds for themselves, sometimes for sexual pleasure. Crossdressing is not indicative of sexual orientation.

**Crush:** A (possibly temporary) romantic attraction to someone, that may or may not be acted upon. This term is often used in the asexual community.

**Demigender:** Used to identify partially as a given gender.

**Demigirl:** Someone who identifies with being a girl or a woman on some level but not entirely.

**Demiguy:** Someone who identifies with being a boy, guy, or man on some level but not entirely.

**Demiromantic:** A person who does not experience romantic attraction unless they have formed a strong emotional bond. A demiromantic person may or may not experience sexual attraction.

**Demisexual:** A person who does not experience sexual and/or romantic attraction unless they have a strong emotional connection. Demisexuality is not a choice; it is an innate sexual orientation.

 **Down-low (DL):** Men who identify as straight, but have sex with men on the side without disclosing this to their female partner(s) (if any). The down-low community is traditionally associated with African American or Latino men.

**Drag King:** A person who performs masculinity and/or manhood in masculine or male-designated clothes. Drag Kings usually cross-dress on a part-time basis and many work as entertainers at nightclubs.



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**Drag Queen:** A person who performs femininity and/or womanhood in feminine or female-designated clothes. Drag Queens usually cross-dress on a part-time basis and many work as entertainers at nightclubs by dancing, singing, or lip-synching.

**Dyadic:** A term used to refer to non-intersex people.

⚠ **Dyke:** A derogatory slur for lesbians. Sometimes reclaimed by some lesbians as a term of pride.

⚠ **Fag(got):** A derogatory slur for gay men. Sometime reclaimed by some gay or bisexual men as a term of pride. Derived from the word faggot (literally “small bundle of sticks”), an allusion to the Inquisition-era practice of burning people at the stake for suspected homosexual practices.

⚠ **Faghag/Fruitfly:** A woman who associates mostly with or exclusively with gay or bisexual men.

⚠ **Fairy:** A derogatory term referring to someone perceived as non-heteronormative. Sometimes adopted affirmatively by gay men to refer to them selves.

**Female/Female-bodied:** Assigned to a person with a specific set of sexual anatomy (XX phenotype, vagina, ovaries, uterus, breasts, higher levels of estrogen, fine body hair) pursuant to this label.

**Femininity:** refers to qualities that are thought of as being womanly, that are typically ascribed to women, and that are considered to be socially appropriate for a woman's behavior. People who exhibit self-described femininity do not necessarily think of themselves as women: some men (including trans men) are feminine, as are some women and some genderqueer or androgynous people.

⚠ **Femme:** A person who expresses or presents themselves in a culturally/stereotypically feminine way whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally. ‘Femme’ can sometimes be used as a derogatory term for lesbians and can be offensive, but it can also be claimed as an affirmative identity label.

**Fluid:** A sexual or gender identity that exists beyond a binary system of either gay or straight, man or woman. People with a fluid identity may resist using labels of choosing boxes to define themselves. Also used by people whose sexual or gender identity is not fixed on one point of a continuum.

**FTM:** Abbreviation for a female-to-male transgender person. This person most likely will use masculine pronouns.

**Gay:** 1. A man who has significant sexual and or romantic attractions to other men, or who identifies as a member of the gay community. 2. At times, “gay” is used to refer to all people, regardless of sex, who have their primary sexual and or romantic attractions to people of the same sex. Lesbians and bisexuals may feel excluded by this word.

**Gender:** A complex combination of roles, expressions, identities, performances, and more that is assigned gendered by society. Gender is determined by individuals and society; how gender is embodied and understood varies between cultures and people.

**Gender Affirming/Confirming Surgery:** Permanent surgical body modification that seeks to attain congruence between one’s body and one’s gender identity. Surgery is only one part of transitioning for transgender people. Not all transgender people may choose or afford gender affirming/confirming surgery. Avoid using outdated terms such as “sex change” or “sex reassignment surgery”.

**Gender Binary:** The division of gender separated into two distinct and opposite categories (man and woman). The gender binary is recognized as a construct, as there are many identities in-between and outside of these categories (man and woman)

**Gender Expression:** An individual’s physical characteristics, behaviors, and presentation that are linked traditionally to either masculinity or femininity, such as: appearance, dress, mannerisms, speech patterns, and social interactions.



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**Gender Identity:** An individual's perception of oneself as a man, woman, or otherwise. One's gender identity may be the same as the gender identity assigned to them, and one's gender identity is not visible to others.

**Gender Inclusive:** A term used to eliminate exclusion when discussing gender. A form of linguistic prescriptivism that aims to eliminate reference to gender in terms that describe people.

**Gender Non-Conforming (GNC):** A person who is either by nature or by choice does not conform to gender based expectations of society (ex. Transgender, transsexual, intersex, genderqueer, cross-dresser, etc.)

 **Gender Neutral:** Noting or pertaining to a word that does not refer to one sex only. Typically used in an effort to be inclusive of gender nonconformity, however, a better phrase to use would be "Gender Inclusive." "Gender Neutral" is often insulting to many trans people and can be compared to the phrase "color blind" often heard in reference to "not seeing" race.

**Gender Role:** Norms of expected behavior for men and women assigned primarily on the basis of biological sex; a sociological construct, which varies from culture to culture.

**Gender Transition:** The social, psychological or medical process of transitioning from one gender to another. Gender transition is an individualized process and does not involve the same steps for everyone. Transition may include telling one's social support network; legally changing one's name or sex; therapeutic treatment with hormones; and possibly, though in not all instances, surgery.

**Gender Variant:** 1: A term that describes those who dress, behave, or express themselves in a way that does not conform to dominant gender norms. 2: Thought to be similar to gender non-conforming, gender variance can describe behavior or gender expression by an individual that does not match masculine and feminine gender norms. Some people do not use this term because they feel it suggests these identities are abnormal, preferring terms such as "gender creative" and "gender expansive."

**Genderfluid:** This term can be used as a specific identity or as a way of articulating the changing nature of one's gender identity or expression. People who are genderfluid may feel that their gender identity or expression is constantly changing, or that it switches back and forth.

**Genderqueer:** A gender variant person whose gender identity is neither male nor female, is between or beyond genders, or is some combination of genders. Individuals that identify as genderqueer often challenge gender stereotypes and the gender binary system.

**Grey-A/Asexual:** The grey area between asexuality and sexuality. Some people identify as being somewhere between asexuality and sexuality. Grey-A identifying persons can include people who do not normally experience sexual attraction, but do experience it sometimes; experience sexual attraction, but a low sex drive; experience sexual attraction and drive, but not strongly enough to want to act on them; people who can enjoy and desire sex, but only under very limited and specific circumstances.

**Greyromantic:** The grey area between being aromantic and experiencing romantic attraction. Some people identify as being somewhere between being aromantic and experiencing romantic attraction. Greyromantic identifying persons can include people who do not normally experience romantic attraction, but do experience it sometimes; experience romantic attraction, but not strongly enough to want to act on it; people who experience romantic attraction but only under very limited and specific circumstances.

**Gynosexual:** A sexual orientation of anyone who has sexual feelings towards a woman.

 **He-she:** A derogatory term used to describe transgender/ transsexual, intersex, or gender non-conforming people that refuses to acknowledge the person's gender.

 **Hermaphrodite:** An out-of-date and offensive term for an intersex person. (See 'Intersex')



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**Heteroflexible:** A person who is predominantly heterosexual, but not exclusively so.

**Heteronormativity:** The assumption, in individuals or in institutions, that everyone is heterosexual, and that heterosexuality is superior to homosexuality and bisexuality.

**Heteroromantic:** A person who is romantically attracted to a member of the opposite sex. A heteroromantic person is not necessarily sexually attracted to the opposite sex.

**Heterosexism:** The individual person, group, or institutional norms and behaviors that result from the assumption that all people are heterosexual. The system of oppression, which assumes that heterosexuality is inherently normal and superior, negates LGBTQ peoples' lives and relationships.

**Heterosexual/Straight:** A person who has significant sexual and or romantic attractions to primarily members of the gender at the other end of the spectrum.

**Homoflexible:** A person who is mostly attracted to the same sex/gender, but can, on occasion be attracted to the opposite sex/gender.

**Homophobia:** The fear of, discrimination against, hatred of, or discomfort with people who are attracted to members of the same sex or gender. Homophobic reactions often lead to intolerance, bigotry, and violence against anyone not acting within heterosexual norms. Because most LGBTQ people are raised in the same society as heterosexuals, they learn the same beliefs and stereotypes prevalent in the dominant society, leading to a phenomenon known as "internalized homophobia."

**Homoromantic:** A person who is romantically attracted to a member of the same sex. A homoromantic person is not necessarily sexually attracted to the same sex.

 **Homosexual:** The clinical term that was coined in the field of psychology, for people who experience same-sex sexual attraction. The word is often associated with the belief that same sex attractions are a mental disorder, and is potentially offensive to people.

 **Internalized Homophobia:** The fear and self-hate of one's own homosexuality or bisexuality in individuals who have learned negative ideas about homosexuality throughout childhood. One form of internalized oppression is the acceptance of the myths and stereotypes applied to the oppressed group. It can result in depression, alienation, anxiety, and, in extreme cases, suicide.

**Intersex:** Term used for a variety of medical conditions in which a person is born with chromosomes, genitalia, and/or secondary sexual characteristics that are ambiguous or considered inconsistent with the typical definition of a male or female body. Intersex individuals are not always aware that they have this condition. Replaces the inaccurate term "hermaphrodite."

**Kinsey Scale:** The continuum model devised by Alfred Kinsey in 1948 that plotted sexuality from 0 to 6; 0 being exclusively heterosexual and 6 being exclusively homosexual. It was the first scale to account for bisexuality. According to a 1954 survey using the scale, 70% of people fell between 1 and 5. It's been criticized for being too linear and only accounting for behavior and not sexual identity and is no longer widely used.

**Leather:** The leather subculture denotes practices and styles of dress organized around sexual activities. Wearing leather garments is one way that participants in this culture self-consciously distinguish themselves from mainstream sexual cultures. Leather culture is most visible in gay communities and most often associated with gay men ("leathermen"), but it is also reflected in various ways in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual worlds. Many people associate leather culture with BDSM (Bondage/Discipline, Dominance/Submission, Sado/Masochism)

**Lesbian:** A self-identified woman who has significant sexual and or romantic attractions to other women, or who identifies as a member of the lesbian community. Bisexual women may not feel included by this term.



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**LGBTQA:** An acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, a Q for 'Queer' and/or 'Questioning', an A for 'Ally' or 'Asexual'.

⚠ **Lifestyle:** This is a word that is often used outside the LGBTQ community to describe living life as an LGBTQ person, i.e. the "gay lifestyle." Many people do not find this word particularly appropriate or positive because it seems to trivialize personal identity, implies that sexual orientation is a choice, and ignores the variety of lifestyles that LGBTQ people live.

⚠ **Lipstick Lesbian:** Usually refers to a lesbian with a feminine gender expression. Can be used in 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.

**MSM:** An abbreviation for men who have sex with men. This term emphasizes the behavior, rather than the identities of the individuals involved.

**MTF:** An abbreviation for a male-to-female transgender individual. This person most likely uses feminine pronouns.

**Male:** Assigned to a person with a specific set of sexual anatomy (e.g. XY phenotype, penis, testis, higher levels of testosterone, coarse body hair, facial hair) pursuant to this label.

**Masculinity:** Refers to qualities that are thought of as being manly, that are typically ascribed to men, and that are considered to be socially appropriate for a man's behavior. People who exhibit self-described masculinity do not necessarily think of themselves as men: some women (including trans women) are masculine, some men are, and some genderqueer or androgynous people are.

**Metrossexual:** A term popularized in the 1990s referring to a heterosexual male who assumes characteristics traditionally associated with gay male stereotypes. While the term seems to imply a shift in sexual orientation it more accurately reflects a loosening of restrictions around male gender role adherence and is not related to sexuality.

⚠ **Misgender:** The act of attributing a person to a gender they do not identify as. Examples include using the incorrect pronouns and using a name not used. You can decrease misgendering people by asking people the pronouns they use and terms when appropriate.

**Mx:** Used as a title for those who do not identify as being of a particular gender, or for people who simply don't want to be identified by gender.

**Neutrois:** This is an identity generally having to do with feeling one does not have a gender, a gender identity, or a defined gender. Some people who identify as neutrois also identify as agender or genderless, and some neutrois people desire to minimize their physical gender markers and to have a more gender-neutral appearance. Pronounced [new-troy].

⚠ **No Homo:** An offensive phrase often used after someone has inadvertently said something that others may consider gay.

**Nonbinary:** Used to identify people whose gender is neither man or woman or who are not men or women exclusively. Nonbinary can refer to a specific gender identity or it can function as an umbrella term which can include, but not limited to, people who are genderqueer, agender, bigender, or neutrois.

**Omnisexual:** A person who is sexually attracted to all sexes/genders. Similar to bisexual, except omnisexual's attractions are not constrained by the gender binary.

⚠ **Othering:** The process of perceiving or portraying someone or something as fundamentally different or alien.

⚠ **Outing:** When someone discloses information about another's sexual orientation or gender identity without their knowledge and/or consent. Allies must take care not to accidentally out someone.



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

**Panromantic:** A person whose romantic attractions are not influenced by sex or gender identity.

**Pansexual:** A person who is emotionally, romantically, sexually, affectionately, or relationally attracted to people regardless of their gender identity or biological sex. Use of the term usually signals a repudiation of the concept of binary (two) sexes (a concept sometimes implied by “bisexual”).

**Passing:** Being taken for a member of the dominant group—white, straight, cisgender (non-transgender), for example, LGBTQI people who have the ability to pass can choose to conceal the stigma associated with being a member of a sexual minority.

**Per:** A gender-inclusive alternative pronoun to he or she. Derives from "person."

**Pride:** A healthy self-respect, which, in the context of the gay community, promotes empowerment, education, safe living, and the sense that it is “okay to be LGBT+.”

**Privilege:** A special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to one person or group of people. Operates on personal, interpersonal, cultural, and institutional levels, gives advantages, favors, and benefits to members of dominant groups at the expense of members of target groups, and people in dominant groups are frequently unaware that they are members of the dominant group due to the privilege of being able to see themselves as persons rather than stereotypes.

**Pronouns:** One class of words that an individual would like others to use when talking to or about that individual (for example: he/him/his, she/her/hers, or ze/hir/hirs).

**Polyamorous:** A person who finds themselves romantically, physically, and/or sexually attracted to multiple individuals, and finds that pursuing multiple relationships is the most satisfying course of action in their lives.

**Polyromantic:** A person who is romantically attracted to all or many genders or gender expressions.

**QPOC:** Acronym for Queer People of color.

**QTPOC:** Acronym for Queer and Trans People of Color. Because not all transgender people identify as queer, QTPOC is also used in addition to QPOC to be more inclusive.

 **Queen:** A slang term used to refer to flamboyant or effeminate gay men. The term can either be pejorative or celebrated as a type of self-identification.

 **Queer:** Originally a derogatory slur, it has recently been reclaimed by some to be an inclusive word for all of those within the LGBTQA+ community. Some individuals also claim queer as their personal identity to recognize the fluidity of sexual attraction and gender identity. Because of the original derogatory nature of the word, it is not necessarily accepted by all.

**Queerplatonic:** A type of non-romantic relationship where there is a strong emotional bond and commitment amongst everyone involved that goes beyond what is traditionally thought of as friendship. A-romantic people may or may not experience these types of relationships (among other kinds).

**Questioning:** The process of examining one’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Can be used as an adjective. Questioning can also be used as an identity.

**Romantic Orientation:** A term used to refer to variations in object of emotional and sexual attraction. The term is also used by those who consider themselves asexual to describe the gender(s) to which they are romantically attracted. The term is preferred by some over “sexual orientation” because it indicates that the feelings and commitments involved are not solely (or even primarily, for some people) sexual. The term stresses the affective emotional component of attractions and relationships, regardless of orientation. Can also be referred to as affectional orientation.



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**Same-Gender Loving (SGL):** A term used by some African-American individuals to describe their sexual orientation, as a result of the perception that “gay” and “lesbian” are primarily white terms. “Same-sex loving” is also in use.

**Sapiosexual:** A person who is emotionally, romantically, sexually, affectionately, or relationally attracted to intelligence and its use.

**Sensual Attraction:** Desire to have physical non-sexual contact with someone else, like affectionate touching.

**Sex: 1.** A biological term dividing a species into male or female, usually on the basis of sex chromosomes (XX = female, XY = male); hormone levels, secondary sex characteristics, and internal and external genitalia may also be considered criteria. **2.** Another term for sexual behavior or gratification. Sex is a biological fact or a physical act.

⚠ **Sexual Reassignment Surgery (SRS):** Outdated, often times found to be offensive. See gender affirming/confirming surgery.

**Sexual Attraction:** Desire to have sexual contact with someone else, to share our sexuality with them.<sub>1</sub>

**Sexual Orientation:** A person’s emotional, physical, and sexual attraction to other people and the expression of that attraction.

**Sexuality:** The complex range of components which make us sexual beings; includes emotional, physical, and sexual aspects, as well as self-identification (including sexual orientation and gender), behavioral preferences and practices, fantasies, and feelings of affection and emotional affinity.

⚠ **Shemale/ Shim:** A derogatory term used to describe transgender/transsexual, intersex, or gender non-conforming people that refuses to acknowledge the person’s gender.

**Skoliosexual:** An attraction to non-binary identified individuals. This does not generally describe an attraction to specific genitalia or birth assignments but rather is an inclusive term.

**Squish: 1.** A term used to describe an interest in somebody that goes beyond traditional friendship roles and experiences. **2.** An aromantic “crush,” a desire for a platonic relationship with someone.

**Stealth:** 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. (Also referred to as: going stealth)

**Stereotype:** An oversimplified generalization about a group of people without regard for their individual differences. Some stereotypes can be positive, however, they can have a negative impact, simply because they involve broad generalizations that ignore individual realities.

**Straight-Acting:** A term, usually applied to gay men, who readily pass as heterosexual. The term implies that there is a stereotypical way gay men act that is significantly different from heterosexual men.<sub>5</sub>

**Stud:** An African-American and/or Latina masculine lesbian. Also known as ‘aggressive’ or ‘ag.’

⚠ **That’s So Gay:** A phrase commonly used to describe something as foolish, stupid, or negative.

**Third Gender:** A term for those who belong to a category other than masculine or feminine. For example, Native American two-spirit people, hijira in India, kathoeyes in Thailand, and travestis in Brazil.

⚠ **Tranny:** Usually a pejorative term used for a transgender person, although some transgender people have reclaimed the term.

**Transfeminine:** Identity label preferred by some male-to-female transgender people.



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**Transgender:** An umbrella term for those individuals whose gender identity does not match with that assigned for their physical sex. Includes, among others, transmen, transwomen, genderqueer people, crossdressers, and drag queens/kings. In its general sense, it refers to anyone whose behavior or identity falls outside of stereotypical expectations for their gender. Transgender people may identify as straight, gay, bisexual, or some other sexual orientation. Sometimes shortened as trans.

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

**Trans man:** A person who was assigned female at birth, but who identifies as male. Some transmen may intend to undergo physical changes to align their body with their gender identity.

**Transmasculine:** Identity label preferred by some female-to-male transgender people.

**Transphobia:** The fear of, discrimination against, hatred of, or discomfort with people who are transgender or otherwise gender non-normative.

 **Transsexual:** A term that is specific to trans people who have transitioned their sex through hormones and/or surgery. This term is sometimes perceived to be outdated or offensive referring to a person whose gender identity consistently differs from what is culturally associated with his/her biological sex at birth. The terms “trans man” and “trans woman” are more commonly used. See also “Transgender.”

 **Transvestite:** An outdated term referring to someone who dresses in clothing generally identified with the opposite gender/sex. (**For a preferred term see:** Cross-dressing)

**Trans woman:** A person who was assigned male at birth, but who identifies as female. Some transwomen may intend to undergo physical changes to align their body with their gender identity.

**Two-Spirit:** A Native American term for people who blend the masculine and the feminine. It is commonly used to describe individuals who historically crossed gender. It is also often used by contemporary LGBTQ Native American people to describe themselves.

**WSW:** An abbreviation for women who have sex with women. This term emphasizes the behavior, rather than the identities of the individuals involved.

**Ze/Hir:** A gender-neutral pronoun used by some transgender individuals (Pronounced Zee) in lieu of he or she. The possessive adjective “hir” (pronounced here) usually follows in place of his or her. Some individuals may use other gender-neutral pronouns.

### **Resources:**

Ohio University LGBT Center Queertionary

<http://www.montclair.edu/student-development-campus-life/lgbtq-center/resources/terminology/>

<http://www.jacobzflores.com/2011/09/18/a-reference-guide-to-the-gay-bear-culture/>

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/mx-gender-neutral-title>