

# LGBTQ TERMINOLOGY



## **ALLY:**

A person who actively supports LGBTQQIA rights and social justice issues.

## **BI/BISEXUAL:**

An enduring emotional, romantic, sexual, and/or affectional attraction to both females and males.

## **COMING OUT:**

The process of accepting one's sexuality or gender identity, as well as the process of revealing one's sexuality or gender identity to others.

## **GAY/LESBIAN:**

An enduring emotional, romantic, sexual, and/or affectional attraction of men to men and of women to women.

## **INTERSEX:**

People who are born with sex chromosomes, external genitalia, or an internal reproductive system that differs from the expected patterns of either female or male

## **QUEER:**

People who do not identify with the binary sexual system or the behavior expected within it.

## **QUESTIONING:**

People who are in the process of sorting out their sexual orientation or are not sure how they identify.

## **INTERSEXED PERSON:**

Someone whose sex a doctor has a difficult time categorizing as either male or female. A person whose combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, internal sex organs, gonads, and/or genitals differs from one of the two expected patterns.

## **TRANSGENDER:**

An umbrella term referring to a person whose gender identity or gender presentation falls outside of stereotypical gender norms

## **HETERONORMATIVITY:**

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

## **HETEROSEXISM:**

Prejudice against individuals and groups who display non heterosexual behaviors or identities, combined with the majority power to impose such prejudice. Usually used to the advantage of the group in power. Any attitude, action, or practice – backed by institutional power – that subordinates people because of their sexual orientation.

## **HOMOPHOBIA:**

The irrational fear or hatred of homosexuals, homosexuality, or any behavior or belief that does not conform to rigid sex role stereotypes. It is this fear that enforces sexism as well as heterosexism.

## **TRANSITION:**

This term is primarily used to refer to the process gender variant persons undergo 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.

## **COMING OUT:**

May refer to the process by which one accepts one's own sexuality, gender identity, or status as an intersexed person. May also refer to the process by which one shares one's sexuality, gender identity, or intersexed status with others.