



# TERMS FOR TRANS & GENDER

## NON-BINARY IDENTITIES

2019

**SEX:** one's assignment as male, female, or intersexed.

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION:** one's romantic or sexual attraction to either the same sex, opposite sex, or all sexes.

**GENDER IDENTITY:** a person's understanding, definition, or experience of their own gender, regardless of assigned sex.

**FEMININE:** concept of what is "naturally" or "traditionally" female in terms of appearance, behavior, and personality.

**MASCULINE:** concept of what is "naturally" or "traditionally" male in terms of appearance, behavior, and personality.

**ANDROGYNOUS:** a term for a person who expresses or presents merged socially-defined masculine and feminine characteristics, or mainly neutral characteristics.

**CROSSDRESSING (CD):** dressing as someone from a different gender category; may be done by people from all genders and sexual orientations. Crossdressers used to be referred to as transvestites (TV), however the term transvestite actually implies crossdressing for sexual purposes.

**DRAG:** crossdressing, especially in a performance.

**PASSING:** presenting oneself well enough to be seen as a member of a different sex/gender category than assigned at birth. Passing may also be about the perception of others. For instance, you may be "passing" as something other than how you identify. The term "passing" has been used across race, sexuality, and gender identity.

**GENDER BINARY SYSTEM:** A concept of western society in which people are raised as either a boy or girl, dependent on what sex you are assigned at birth. This forms the basis for your gender and how you present; how you behave; what you wear; how you are educated; what jobs you can, or are expected to do; and who you should be attracted to/love/marry, etc.

**GENDER ROLE:** culturally accepted and expected behavior associated with assigned sex.

**GENDER CHARACTERISTICS:** characteristics that are used by others to attribute gender to an individual, such as facial hair or vocal pitch.

**GENDER EXPRESSION/GENDER PRESENTATION:** the way a person expresses their gender through gestures, movement, dress, and grooming.

**GENDERQUEER/GENDER NONBINARY:** a term which is used by some people who may or may not fit on the spectrum of trans, or be labeled as trans, but who identify their gender and sexual orientation to be outside of the gender binary system, or culturally prescribed gender roles.

**CISGENDER:** someone who has a gender identity that agrees with their societally recognized sex. The opposite of transgender.

**INTERSEX:** refers to a series of medical conditions in which a child's genetic sex (chromosomes) and phenotypic sex (genital appearance) do not match, or are somehow different from the "standard" male or female. About one in 1,500 babies are born visibly this way, while some others are detected later. For more information, please visit <http://www.intersexinitiative.org>.

**TRANSSEXUAL (TS):** A person who feels that their gender identity does not match their assigned sex; most take hormones and/or have surgery to make their bodies look more male or female.

**TRANSGENDER (TG):** an umbrella term for designating those who transcend or transgress gender by not looking, acting, being, or identifying as traditionally male or female; can include transsexuals, bi-gendered and multi-gendered people, and other gender nonconformists.

**TWO-SPIRIT (2S):** is an umbrella term used by Indigenous, First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples to describe someone who embodies the souls of both male and female. Can be used by someone whose sexual or gender identity is outside of what is considered "normal" by mainstream society. Two-spirit people have been documented in over 130 tribes across North America.