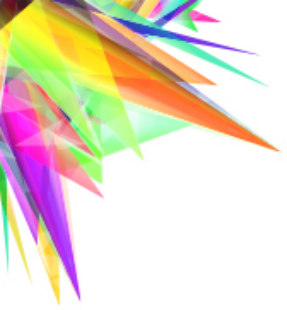


# Queer Language



Alphabet Soup



# Language

Understanding the terms

## Unpacking the Alphabet Soup

Useful terms

1

General terms which are used across the board in terms of Gender or Sexual Orientation.

Gender

2

Gender Sexuality and Terminology

Orientation

3

Sexual or Affectional Orientation Terminology

Where we use them

4

Common places we can make changes to be more inclusive.

How we use them

5

How do we find out what to use, when, and with who!



# Language

Useful terms

1

## Ally

Straight or gender conforming supporter of equality or justice. NOT an identity but an action.

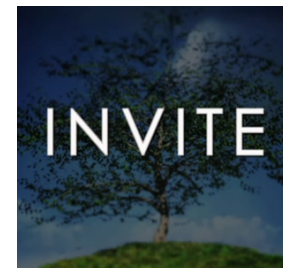
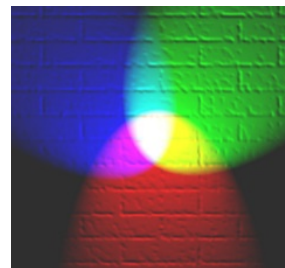


## Coming Out

Process of self-accepting and revelation of one's orientation and identity.

## Closeted

One who is actively hiding part of their identity



## Inviting In

A more gentle way of describing coming out which offers a more controlled concept.



# Language

Gender

2

## Gender

The state of being male or female (typically used with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones).

## 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.

## Gender Expression

External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, haircut or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.

## Sex

A person's biological gender status assigned at birth.

## Agender


People who do not identify with any gender or gender identity

## Bigender

People who identify with two different genders or gender identity, either at the same time or at different times.

## Cisgender

People whose gender assigned at birth matches their bodily presentation AND their own psychological and spiritual sense of gender identity. Also known as gender normative.





# Language

Gender

2

## Cross-dressing

A cisgender person wearing the clothing of and presenting as another gender. NOT transgender as they do not have the gender identity of the opposite sex.

## Drag

Similar to cross dressing but specifically for performance purposes and again NOT transgender.

## Gender Fluid

Those whose gender or gender expression shifts between masculine and feminine either in the way they present themselves or how they identify themselves to others.

## Genderism

Prejudice against trans people – as opposed to fear.

## Gender Queer


Self-expression for those whose gender identity moves outside binary expressions.

## Intersex

People whose sex characteristics (physical, hormonal, chromosomal) are not clearly defined.

## Nonbinary

People who do not identify with either male or female binary expressions – may be agender or somewhere in between male/female continuum.



# Language

Gender

2

## Transgender

People whose psychological and spiritual sense of gender differs from social and cultural expectations attached to their biological and physical birth characteristics.

## Transsexual

People who identify to the opposite sex to that which they were assigned at birth. Older term not often used now.

## Transition

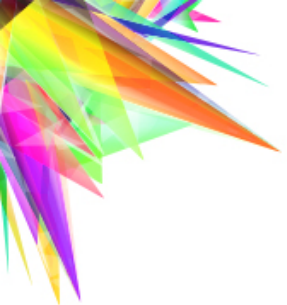
Process which a transgender or transsexual person undergoes to alter their assigned birth sex so it aligns with their gender identity.

## Transphobia

Irrational fear of transgender persons.

## Two-spirit

Native American term to describe intersex, transgender, or other gender-variant people.



# Language

Gender

2

## Pronouns

Use of identifying gender pronouns is important for people who feel that the binary he/she are not descriptive of themselves.

**She / Her / Hers / Herself**

**He / Him / His / Himself**

**They / Them / Theirs / Themselves**

**Ze / Zir / Zirs / Zirself**

**Ey / Em / Eir / Eirself**

**Name / Name / Name's / Name**



# Language

Orientation

3

## Asexual

A person who does not experience sexual attraction in any regard. Not celibate!

## Bisexual

People who experience sexual and emotional attraction to both men and women.

## Gay

Same-sex attraction blanket term although more commonly assigned to men



# Language

Orientation

3

## Heterosexual

People who are sexually and emotionally attracted to the “opposite” sex.

## Heterosexism

Prejudice against those who are not heterosexual.

## Homophobia

Irrational fear of those who are not heterosexual

# Language

Orientation

3

## Homosexual

Historical term used both positively and negatively to describe gay and lesbian people. Typically now only used by those who hold non-affirming theological positions.

## Lesbian

Women who experience sexual and emotional attraction to other women.

## Pansexual

People who experience sexual or affectional attraction to persons of any gender identity or sex.

# Language

Orientation

3

## Queer

Anyone who lives outside the heterosexual, gender conforming norms.

## Same gender loving

African American contextual word for gay and/or lesbian.

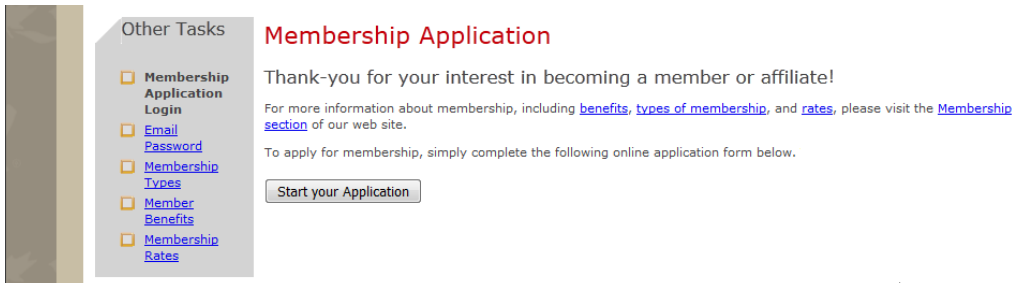
## Straight

Heterosexual and gender conforming.

# Language

4

Where we use them



## Forms/Name Genders

E.G. Membership forms which have a space for Sex rather than Gender. Include preferred pronouns.



## Bulletins

Gender specific words and language



## Everyday Language

In all we say or do.

# Language

5

How we use them

## Language keeps changing!

Read publications – The Advocate, Huffington Post, Websites such as Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and theological publications

## Don't be nervous!

You don't have to know it all to be affirming.

## Ask!

“May I ask what words you use to describe yourself?”  
“Can you tell me what the words mean to you?”

## Don't be silent!

Silence sends a signal of forbidden or taboo subjects.

