# Gender and Sexual Identity - Related Terms

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**Notes**: This is a partial list of terms. Among other things, names of various surgeries and hormones or hormone blockers are also helpful to know. The terms below and others are being invented and re-invented constantly. Always pay attention to and use the preferred terms used by the particular transgender person with whom you are communication . “Tranny” is an offensive word to most trans people or used only as insider (trans person-to-trans person) language. It is important to use *correctly* the terms which are noted as adjectives. A person is not “a transgender;” they are a “transgender person.”

AFAB – assigned female at birth

AMAB – assigned male at birth

Agender-- not identifying with any gender

Androgyne – one who identifies with masculinity and feminity but not binary male/female genders

Androsexual/androphilic – attracted to males, men and/or masculinity

Aromantic – not experiencing (ever) romantic attraction (plus “gray aromantic” – experiencing romantic attraction only occasionally)

Asexual – not experiencing attraction to any people (plus “gray asexual” or “gray-ace” – experiencing very little sexual attraction)

Bigender – identifying as being more or less equally male and female

Binary (genders) – the two limited, culturally sanctioned genders, “male” and “female”

Binding – wearing a device to bind breasts tightly to the chest to hide them

Bottom surgery – any one of multiple possible sex reassignment surgeries performed on the genitals

Chest surgery – double mastectomy or breast augmentation for transsexuals; also known as top surgery

Cisgender – (adj.) having a gender identity that is congruent with sex/gender assigned at birth (non-trans)

Crossdressing – wearing clothes and accessories associated with people of the “opposite” sex. Usually this refers to those assigned male at birth; crossdressers are not the same as transsexuals

Demiboy – person who is partly a boy

Demigirl – person who is partly a girl

Dressing – Esp. for MTFs, going out dressed in traditionally female attire, hair, makeup, etc. Used if person is not “full-time”

Drag King/Queen – person who dress and acts like the “opposite” sex, usually for as a performance

FTM – (adj.) assigned female at birth, now identifying as male

Full-time – when a transsexual person expresses their true gender at all times through appearance, behavior, self-identification, etc.

Gate-keeping – perceived role of therapists who evaluate the medical necessity of or readiness for hormones or surgery

Gender affirmation – see Transition

Gender Affirmation/Confirmation Surgery – any of several surgeries available to transsexuals to make physical body match gender identity (in this culture)

Gender dysphoria – distress caused by non-identification with the gender one is assigned at birth, or by society’s rejection of one’s true gender identity; now a DSM V diagnosis

Gender expression – the external display of gender through dress, demeanor, social behavior, etc.

Gender-fluid, gender flexible – not adhering consistently to a single gender identity/expression, changing according to inner state or situation

Gender identity – the internal perception of an individual’s gender, how they label themselves

Gender neutral – not identifying with a particular gender identity (same as agender)

Gender non-conforming, gender creative, gender variant – not conforming to socially defined gender norms for clothing, behavior, interests, etc.

Genderqueer – (adj.) same as transgender, more likely to identify as both genders, neither, other

Gender variant – same as gender non-conforming

Genital surgery – genital surgeries for transsexuals to align their genitals with their gender identity

Heterosexism – attitude that assumes that heterosexuality is the norm or the only legitimate type of sexual orientation, granting heterosexuals preferential treatment

Hormone therapy or hormone replacement therapy (HRT) – the use of hormones (testosterone, estrogens, progestogens) and hormone blockers to effect desired changes in secondary sex charactistics to align a transsexual’s body with their gender identity

Intersex – born with genitals and/or sex chromosomes that don’t fall neatly into male or female categories at birth

Lesbian – person who identifies as female and is attracted to others who identify as female

MOGI – Marginalized Orientations, Gender Alignments and Intersex (alternative to LGBTQI)

MTF – (adj.) assigned male at birth, now identifying as female

Natal gender/sex – sex/gender assigned at birth to correspond with genitalia

Neutrois – similar to agender but often including some outward transition

No-op/non-op – transsexual who does not intend to have gender-confirmation surgery

Non-binary – not identifying with the binary gender system

Non-trans – (adj.) gender identity is congruent with assigned sex/gender

Pan-sexual – experiencing sexual attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions

Packing – wearing a prosthetic phallus and testicles (soft) (a packer)

Passing – see Stealth

Pre-op – (adj.) describes a transsexual person who intends to have gender-confirmation surgery but hasn’t yet

Polygender – having more than one gender, either more than one at once, or moving between genders

Polysexual – experiencing sexual attraction to multiple genders

Post-op – (adj.) describes a transsexual person who has had one or more gender-confirming surgeries

Puberty blockers – hormone blocking medications used to delay puberty and secondary sex development in order to give gender non-conforming children more time to decide whether to medically transition with hormones

QPOC – (*say* “*q-pock”)* queer people/person of color

Secondary sex characteristics – sex characteristics other than genitals and chromosomes such as balding, breast development, beard growth, voice changes

Skoliosexual – attracted to genderqueer and transgender people and expressions

SRS – sex reassignment surgery. See Gender Affirmation/Confirmation surgery

Stealth – expressing a binary male or female gender role in such a way that others can’t tell that one was assigned another gender at birth. Some trans people find this term (and “passing”) offensive.

Tucking – tucking phallus in where it is less visible under clothes

Two-spirit – Native American term for person who occupies an alternative place on the gender spectrum (neither “male” nor “female”)

Third-gender – identifying as being a third gender, neither “male” nor “female” but something else

Top surgery – same as chest surgery

Transfeminine – (adj.) assigned male at birth but now identify as a woman or closer to a feminine gender than a masculine one

Transmasculine – (adj.) assigned female at birth but now identify as a man or closer to a masculine gender than a feminine one

Transgender – (adj.) umbrella term describing people who don’t identify as the gender they were assigned at birth

Transition – the steps a transsexual takes to affirm/express their gender identity

Transman, transguy, boi – same as transmasculine, only perhaps more definitively male

Transsexual – (adj.) describes a person whose gender identity and gender expression are “opposite” that of the gender they were assigned at birth; they have taken or intend to take steps related to affirm their gender

Transwoman – same as transfeminine, only perhaps more definitively female