



gender diversity



TERMS

By Katelyn Burns

transgender

Always an adjective used to describe people whose gender identity doesn't align with their assigned sex at birth. Never use as a noun, for example "the transgenders were banned from the military" should read "transgender people were banned from the military."

cisgender

An adjective used to describe people whose gender identities match their assigned sex at birth. The term is Latin and derives from modern chemistry as the opposite of "trans", meaning "on the same side". Cisgender or cis is not a slur and is often confused with straight or heterosexual. Cisgender as a term has no relation to sexuality as straight trans people also exist.

transsexual

A term which has fallen out of favor within the trans community, though some trans people still use it as an identifier to signal that their relation to gender is heavily based on sex or genital physical dysphoria,

non-binary

An adjective to describe the gender identity of people who fall somewhere in between the masculine and feminine ends of the gender identity spectrum or are completely outside of the gender binary or identify as neither man nor woman.

genderqueer

A term some trans people use to describe themselves. Generally genderqueer people strive to incorporate elements of masculinity and femininity together within their gender expression.

gender dysphoria

A clinical term representing the distress felt by someone whose internal sense of their own gender is in conflict with their outwardly visible gender markers.

transphobia

An intense dislike or revulsion towards the existence of trans people. It mainly manifests as a denial of trans autonomy to define our own genders "IE trans women are really men, etc".

transmisia

A newer term similar to “transphobia” that seeks to destigmatize people with clinically diagnosed phobias.

TERMS

transmisogyny

A term to describe the unique way that society discriminates against trans women for being women with sexism, while also fundamentally denying their womanhood by branding them “really men”
Example: In the American context, white supremacy.

transition

The term used to describe the process in which trans people seek to change their gender or gender expression. Often but not necessarily involving medical treatment, a name change, and/or pronoun changes.

Important to note that there should always be a space between trans and man/woman. Trans is short for transgender and you wouldn't write “transgenderwoman” so “transwoman” wouldn't make sense either. The “transwoman” moniker was invented by transphobic feminists to force trans women into a third sex category separate from womanhood.

trans woman

A term to describe someone who was assigned male at birth who has transitioned to female. Rule of thumb: Always attach the trans modifier to a trans person's destination gender.

trans man

A term to describe someone who was assigned female at birth who transitioned to male.

assigned [sex] at birth

Rather than saying “born male/female” trans people refer to their sex as having been assigned to them by people other than themselves. Birth sex assignments aren't simply the doctor's observation at birth but can also refer to the way trans people are systemically forced into socialization based on their birth assigned sex. Often expressed with “AMAB” or “AFAB”.

pronouns

Including this to note that “preferred pronouns” indicates that trans people's pronouns are optional, they are not. Trans people's pronouns are just as valid as cisgender people's pronouns. They're not preferred or optional, they are mandatory.

drag queen

A person who dons a cross-gender costume for performance purposes. Some drag queens are also trans, but the two terms should not be conflated.

**transvestite /
crossdresser**

Generally used to describe people who have male gender identities who dress in female clothes, sometimes for sexual gratification. Some trans people may start their gender exploration with crossdressing, but the two terms should not be conflated.

TERMS

**transfeminine /
transmasculine**

An adjective to describe a broader spectrum of trans identities. Transfeminine or transfemme people are usually AMAB and now express their genders on the feminine side of the gender spectrum and vice versa for transmasculine/transmasc people.

**Genital
Reconstruction
Surgery**

Often shortened to GRS, this term describes surgeries designed to change the genitals of a trans person. Formerly referred to as “sex change surgery”, this procedure has gone through several terms and is constantly in flux. AKA gender confirmation surgery (GCS), bottom surgery, sex reassignment surgery (SRS).

T.E.R.F. or TERF

An acronym for Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminist. TERFs believe that gender is completely socially induced and that trans women specifically are men who appropriate the female body for themselves. The term TERF is an accurate, neutral representation of this ideology and is not a slur.
