

Gender GLOSSARY

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Introduction

The concept of gender is increasingly significant in our rapidly evolving society. This term can be interpreted through various dimensions, such as politics, law, social values, culture, and individual identities, all of which play vital roles. An examination reveals an abundance of glossaries pertaining to gender-related terminology, emphasising specific aspects of this concept. Numerous glossaries provide explanations concerning LGBTQIA+ related issues and the legal dimensions of gender.

In this compilation, we have endeavoured to encompass terminology that reflects diverse facets of gender, aiming to educate individuals from various backgrounds and inform the public about the critically important concept of 'gender'. Our references include reputable organisations such as UN Women, WHO, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, the Human Rights Campaign, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, as well as pertinent legal frameworks from India.

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Crafting the Glossary

- The process began by identifying trusted sources, such as those from UNESCO, UNICEF, and glossaries compiled by other authoritative organisations.
- The gender-related terms were collected from various sources without concentrating on any specific area. Each word was verified across different references to ensure accuracy and clarity; when definitions varied, reliable sources such as UN Women and WHO were consulted.
- The terms are arranged in alphabetical order and went through multiple review processes before being finalised.
- The references follow the Chicago Manual of Style 17th Edition.

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Published in India by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, April 2025.

Compiled by: Neethi P, Senior Researcher, IIHS

Shilpa S P, IIHS Library

Edited by: Asha Jhina, IIHS Word Lab

Designed by: Nawaz Khan; **Reviewed by:** Prachi Prabhu and Padma Venkataraman – IIHS Communications and Design

DOI Link: <https://doi.org/10.24943/GEN04.2025>

KG Link: <https://iihs.co.in/knowledge-gateway/gender-glossary/>

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A

Agender

A gender identity term for individuals who often conceptualise their gender as not aligning with any gender categories, having no other words that quite fit, and not caring about the project of gender altogether. Some people who are agender understand this identity to mean genderless.

Source: Michigan State University, n.d.

Androgyne

A person appearing and/or identifying as neither man nor woman. Some androgyne individuals may present in a gender neutral or androgynous way.

Source: Green & Peterson, 2003

Androgyny

A term that combines the Greek words for man and woman, is a state of ambiguous gender in which identifying sexual characteristics are uncertain or mixed. It differs from hermaphroditism, or intersexuality, a condition in which dual sexual characteristics are unambiguously present. To say that someone is androgynous is to say that he or she combines stereotypically male and female attributes.

Source: Christodoulou, 2005

Assigned at Birth

This term illustrates that an individual's sex (and subsequently gender in early life) was assigned without involving the person whose sex was being assigned. Commonly seen as 'Female Assigned At Birth' (FAAB or AFAB) and 'Male Assigned At Birth' (MAAB or AMAB).

Source: Green & Peterson, 2003

B

Beijing Platform for Action

Beijing Platform for Action is a landmark document that came out of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, convened in Beijing, China in September 1995. The declaration embodies the commitment of the international community to the advancement of women, ensuring that a gender perspective is reflected in all policies and programmes at the national, regional and international levels.

Source: UNESCO, 2022

Bigender

A gender identity term for a person identifying as two genders, either simultaneously or varying between the two.

Source: Michigan State University, n.d.

Biphobia

The fear of, discrimination against, or hatred of bisexuals, which is oftentimes related to the current binary standard. Biphobia can be seen within the LGBTQIA community, as well as in general society.

Source: Green & Peterson, 2003

Bottom surgery

Colloquial way of describing gender affirming genital surgery.

Source: UC Davis Health, 2025

Butch

A person whose gender presentation includes attributes more commonly associated with masculinity than femininity; most often seeks femmes as partners and is oriented to a queer gender continuum of butch/femme.

Source: University of Rhode Island, 2025

C

Cisgender

An adjective describing people whose gender identity aligns with their sex assigned at birth, that is, not a transgender man or woman. Abbreviated to 'cis'.

Source: NLGJA, 2025

Cisnormativity

The assumption, in individuals or in institutions, that everyone is cissexual, and that cisgender persons' identities are more normal, valid, and worthy of respect than transgender people's identities.

Source: Green & Peterson, 2003

Cross dressing

The act of wearing the clothing of the 'opposite' gender for performance, sexual encounters, entertainment or comfort.

Source: University of Rhode Island, 2025

Cross-dresser

Someone who wears the clothes typically worn by another gender, sometimes only at home, or as part of sexual play, and sometimes at public functions. It can be a self-identity. This term is not interchangeable with transgender, and some people who cross dress may consider themselves to be part of the transgender community, while others do not.

Source: Yale University, 2020

Cross-sex hormone therapy

The administration of hormones for those who wish to match their physical secondary sex characteristics to their gender identity.

Source: *UC Davis Health, 2025*

D Deadname/Deadnaming

A deadname is often used to describe the name that a trans person received at birth, sometimes called their birth name. Deadnaming is the act of calling someone by their deadname (or birth name) after they have changed their name as part of their transition and/or in order to affirm their identity.

Source: *Back On Track Teens, 2021*

Drag

Drag is a form of gender expression and is not an indication of gender identity. Individuals who dress in drag may or may not consider themselves to be transgender. They may identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight or some other sexual orientation.

Source: *LGBTQIA Resource Center, 2025*

E Epicene

To be epicene is to be androgynous, or projecting characteristics of both sexes. For both men and women, it is a melding of the two into an ambiguous sexual identity.

Source: *Vocabulary.com Dictionary, 2025*

F Female

A biological designation for a person bearing two X chromosomes in the cell nuclei, who typically have a vagina, a uterus, and ovaries. At puberty, the body produces oestrogen.

Source: *University of Rhode Island, 2025*

Femicide

The killings of women and girls because of their gender. The causes and risk factors of this type of violence are linked to gender inequality, discrimination, and economic disempowerment and are the result of a systematic disregard for women's human rights.

Source: *Christodoulou, 2005*

Feminism

Feminism is a movement for social, cultural, political and economic equality of women and men. It is a campaign against gender inequalities and it strives for equal rights for women. Feminism can be also defined as the right to enough information available to every single woman so that she can make a choice to live a life which is not discriminatory, and which works within the principles of social, cultural, political and economic equality and independence. Feminism can be also defined as a global phenomenon which addresses various issues related to women across the world in a specific manner as applicable to a particular culture or society. Though the issues related to feminism may differ for different societies and cultures, they are broadly tied together with the underlying philosophy of achieving equality of gender in every sphere of life. So, feminism cannot be tied to any narrow definitions based on a particular class, race or religion.

Source: *Christodoulou, 2005*

Femme

Someone whose gender presentation includes attributes commonly associated with femininity but sees herself outside the confines of heterosexual female gender presentation; is often used to refer to lesbian-identified women who seek butch lesbians as partners and is oriented to a queer gender continuum of butch/femme.

Source: *University of Rhode Island, 2025*

G Gender

A social and cultural construct, which distinguishes differences in the attributes of men and women, girls and boys, and accordingly refers to the roles and responsibilities of men and women. Gender-based roles and other attributes, therefore, change over time and vary with different cultural contexts. The concept of gender includes the expectations held about the characteristics, aptitudes and likely behaviours of both women and men (femininity and masculinity). This concept is useful in analysing how commonly shared practices legitimise discrepancies between sexes.

Source: *UNICEF, 2017*

Gender accommodating

Gender accommodating means not only being aware of gender differences but also adjusting and adapting to those differences. However, gender accommodating does not address the inequalities generated by unequal norms, roles and relations (i.e., no remedial or transformative action is developed).

Source: UNICEF, 2017

Gender analysis

A critical examination of how differences in gender roles, activities, needs, opportunities and rights/entitlements affect men, women, girls and boys in certain situations or contexts. Gender analysis examines the relationships between females and males and their access to and control of resources and the constraints they face relative to each other. A gender analysis should be integrated into the humanitarian needs assessment and in all sector assessments or situational analyses to ensure that gender-based injustices and inequalities are not exacerbated by humanitarian interventions, and that, when possible, greater equality and justice in gender relations are promoted.

Source: UNICEF, 2017

Gender attribution

The act of attributing a gender to another with or without knowledge of that person's gender identity. Assuming a person's gender pronouns is one example of gender attribution.

Source: Michigan State University, n.d.

Gender awareness

Understanding of the socially determined differences between women and men based on learned behaviour, which affect their ability to access and control resources.

Source: Christodoulou, 2005

Gender balance

Gender balance is commonly used in reference to human resources and equal participation of women and men in all areas of work, projects or programmes. In a scenario of gender equality, women and men are expected to participate proportionally to their shares in the population. In many areas, however, women participate less than what was expected based on the sex distribution in the population (underrepresentation of women) while men participate more than expected (overrepresentation of men).

Source: European Institute for Gender Equality, 2025

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence refers to violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering, against someone based on gender discrimination, gender role expectations and/or gender stereotypes, or based on the differential power status linked to gender.

Source: UNESCO, 2022

Gender bias

Making decisions based on gender that result in favouring one gender over the other which often results in contexts that are favouring men and/or boys over women and/or girls.

Source: UNICEF, 2017

Gender binary

A system in which gender is constructed into two strict categories of male or female. Gender identity is expected to align with the sex assigned at birth, and gender expressions and roles fit traditional expectations.

Source: HRC Foundation, 2025

Gender blindness

Is the failure to recognise that gender is an essential determinant of social outcomes impacting on projects and policies. A gender-blind approach assumes gender is not an influencing factor in projects, programmes or policy.

Source: Christodoulou, 2005

Gender confirming surgery

Medical surgeries used to modify one's body to be more congruent with one's gender identity, also known as 'Sex Reassignment Surgery,' especially within the medical community.

Source: Green & Peterson, 2003

Gender contract

A set of implicit and explicit rules governing gender relations which allocate different work and value, responsibilities and obligations to men and women and is maintained on three levels—cultural superstructure—the norms and values of society; institutions - family welfare, education and employment systems, etc.; and socialisation processes, notably in the family.

Source: European Institute for Gender Equality, 2025

Gender discrimination

Gender discrimination refers to any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of socially constructed gender roles and norms which prevents a person from enjoying full human rights.

Source: *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2006*

Gender disparity

Difference between men and women, boys and girls that reflect an inequality in some quantity.

Source: *UNICEF, 2017*

Gender dysphoria

Discomfort and/or distress that varies in intensity, duration, and interval for an individual extending from the disjuncture between one's conceptualisation of their gender and the way their body is. Serves as a medical term and diagnosis in the American Psychological Association's (APA) *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5)*, which contributes to the stigmatisation of transgender identities as a mental disorder. Clinically speaking, gender dysphoria is present when a person experiences significant distress related to their gender. The concept of dysphoria, rather than the diagnosis, is employed frequently by the trans/nonbinary community to name their experience. Not all trans persons experience gender dysphoria, and not everyone views gender dysphoria as a mental health diagnosis.

Source: *Michigan State University, n.d.*

Gender effect

A term referring to the understanding that when a society invests in girls, the effects are deep for the girls, multiple for society and a driver of sustainable development.

Source: *UNICEF, 2017*

Gender equality

Gender equality is the absence of discrimination on the basis of gender in opportunities, in the allocation of resources or benefits, or in access to services. It is thus the full and equal exercise by men and women of their human rights. Gender disparities are inequalities or differences based on gender.

Source: *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2006*

Gender expression

The way in which someone expresses their gender, either consciously or unconsciously. This can encompass everything that communicates our gender to others, including clothing, hairstyle, body language, manner of speaking, social interactions, and gender roles. Most people have some blend of masculine and feminine qualities that comprise their gender expression, and this expression can also vary depending on the social context. There is not always a direct translation between gender identity and gender expression. A person's gender expression may or may not align with the way people attribute gender to that person.

Source: *Michigan State University, n.d.*

Gender equity

Gender equity refers to the process of being fair to girls and boys, women and men. Because women have often historically been placed at a disadvantage, being fair can involve taking temporary measures to level the playing field for all genders.

Source: *UNESCO, 2022*

Gender fluid

A gender identity term for people whose gender expression is variable across time and space.

Source: *Michigan State University, n.d.*

Gender focal point

Gender focal point is an individual who has been designated within an institution or organisation to monitor and stimulate greater consideration of gender equality issues in daily operations. Some use the term to refer to national ministries of women's affairs or heads of administrative services that exclusively work on the promotion of women's rights and equal opportunities.

Source: *UNESCO, 2022*

Gender gap

Disproportionate difference between men and women and boys and girls, particularly as reflected in attainment of development goals, access to resources and levels of participation. A gender gap indicates gender inequality.

Source: *UNICEF, 2017*

Gender identity

A person's individual understanding of their own gender and the language they use to describe this understanding. This can also be considered one's innate and personal experience of gender.

Source: *Michigan State University, n.d.*

Gender indicators

Tools for monitoring gender differences, gender-related changes over time and progress towards gender equality goals.

Source: *European Institute for Gender Equality, 2025*

Gender inequality

Legal, social and cultural situations in which sex and/or gender determine different rights and dignity for women and men, which are reflected in their unequal access to or enjoyment of rights, as well as the assumption of stereotyped social and cultural roles.

Source: *European Institute for Gender Equality, 2025*

Gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experience an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, such that inequality between men and women is not perpetuated.

Source: *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2006*

Gender neutral

Having no differential positive or negative impact for gender relations or equality between women and men. Gender neutral means not being associated with either women or men and may refer to various aspects such as concepts or style of language. What is perceived to be gender neutral, however, including in areas of statistics or dissemination of data collected in reference to a population, is often gender blind (a failure to recognise gender specificities).

Source: *European Institute for Gender Equality, 2025*

Gender nonconforming

People who do not subscribe to gender expressions or roles expected of them by society.

Source: *UC Davis Health, 2025*

Gender norms

Accepted attributes and characteristics of male and female gendered identity at a particular point in time for a specific society or community. They are the standards and expectations to which gender identity generally conforms, within a range that defines a particular society, culture and community at that point in time. Gender norms are ideas about how men and women should be and act. Internalised early in life, gender norms can establish a life cycle of gender socialisation and stereotyping.

Source: *UNICEF, 2017*

Gender oppression

The societal, institutional, and individual beliefs and practices that privilege cisgender and subordinate and disparage transgender or gender nonconforming people.

Source: *Green & Peterson, 2003*

Gender outlaw

A person who refuses to be defined by conventional definitions of male and female.

Source: *UC Davis Health, 2025*

Gender parity

Gender parity refers to the numerical concept for representation and participation. It is another term for equal representation of women and men in a given area. For example, gender parity in primary education.

Source: *UNESCO, 2022*

Gender perspective

A way of understanding how gender may be addressed or related to a particular issue, and applying this to the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes. It is the notion that problems and solutions should be examined with sensitivity to the implications of gender in mind.

Source: *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2006*

Gender position

It refers to women's social and economic standing in society relative to men. For example, male/female disparities in wages and employment opportunities, unequal representation in the political process, unequal ownership of land and property, vulnerability to violence (i.e., strategic gender need/interests).

Source: *European Institute for Gender Equality, 2025*

Gender role

A set of societal norms dictating what types of behaviours are generally considered acceptable, appropriate or desirable for a person based on their actual or perceived sex.

Source: *UC Davis Health, 2025*

Gender segregation

Gender segregation manifests itself in differences in patterns of representation of women and men in labour market, public and political life, unpaid domestic work and caring, and in young women's and men's choice of education.

Source: *European Institute for Gender Equality, 2025*

Gender-sensitive indicators

Gender-sensitive indicators provide information about progress in the move towards gender equality. An indicator summarises a large amount of information in a single figure, in such a way as to show an aspect of the relative advantage or disadvantage between men and women and give an indication of change over time. Indicators differ from statistical data in that, rather than merely presenting facts, indicators involve comparison.

Source: *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2006*

Gender stereotype

Gender stereotypes, or gender bias, are generic attitudes, opinions or roles applied to a particular gender and which function as unjustifiably fixed assumptions.

Source: *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 2006*

Gender studies

Academic, usually interdisciplinary, approach to the analysis of the situations of women and men and gender relations, as well as the gender dimension of all other disciplines.

Source: *European Institute for Gender Equality, 2025*

Gender Unicorn

A commonly used model to explain various aspects of one's identity, including assigned sex at birth, gender identity, gender expression, physical attraction, and romantic attraction. The Gender Unicorn illustrates how, with the exception of assigned sex at birth, these different aspects of identity exist on spectrums.

Source: *LGBTQIA Resource Center, 2025*

Gender variant

Someone who either by nature or by choice does not conform to gender-based expectations of society (e.g., transgender, transsexual, intersex, genderqueer, cross-dresser, etc).

Source: *Montgomery College, n.d.*

Gender-sensitive language

Realisation of gender equality in written and spoken language attained when women and men and those who do not conform to the binary gender system are made visible and addressed in language as persons of equal value, dignity, integrity and respect. Avoiding sex- and gender-based discrimination starts with language, as the systematic use of gender-biased terminology influences attitudes and expectations and could, in the mind of the reader or listener, relegate women to the background or help perpetuate a stereotyped view of women's and men's roles. There are number of different strategies that can be used to express gender relationships with accuracy, such as avoiding, to the greatest possible extent, the use of language that refers explicitly or implicitly to only one gender, and ensuring, through inclusionary alternatives and according to each language's characteristics, the use of gender-sensitive and inclusive language.

Source: *European Institute for Gender Equality, 2025*

Gendered space

Gendered space refers to the myriad ways in which space in all its forms– material, discursive, metaphorical, emotional, and the like-is produced by and productive of gender norms and relations.

Source: *Myrdahl, 2019*

Genderqueer

Describes an individual whose gender identity doesn't align with a binary understanding of gender, including those who think of themselves as both male and female, neither, moving between genders, a third gender or outside of gender altogether.

Source: *American Psychological Association, 2018*

Glass ceiling

The term is a metaphor that has often been used to describe invisible barriers ('glass') through which women can see elite positions, for example in government or the private sector, but cannot reach them (coming up against the invisible 'ceiling'). These barriers prevent large numbers of women and ethnic minorities from obtaining and securing the most powerful, prestigious, and highest-paying jobs in the workforce.

Source: *UN Women Training Centre, 2021*

Grey ace

A sexual identity term for people who experience very little, limited, or low sexual attraction, or only experience sexual attraction rarely. Grey ace individuals are a part of the broader asexual community.

Source: Michigan State University, n.d.

Homosexual

A sexual identity term that most often refers to a person who is sexually attracted to people of their same gender. Presently considered offensive and dated to many in the LGBTQIA2S+ community, though some still claim it as an identity.

Source: Michigan State University, n.d.

Hypermasculinity

Exaggerated image of hegemonic masculinity, mainly in media. It overemphasises the ideals set out for men, hence reinforcing them.

Source: Christodoulou, 2005

H**Hegemonic masculinity**

Socially and historically constructed idea of what men ought to be, in a way a structure that links power to masculinity.

Source: Christodoulou, 2005

Heteronormativity

The term refers to heterosexuality being the norm and an assumption of a person's heterosexuality is a part of it. It can also be claimed to include an injunction according to which people ought to be heterosexual. Heteronormativity shapes what we know and how we know it.

Source: Christodoulou, 2005

Heterosexual

A sexual identity term that most often refers to men who are only sexually attracted to women and women who are only sexually attracted to men.

Source: Michigan State University, n.d.

Homophobia

Literally a fear of homosexuality. A phobia is an irrational fear that runs contrary to cultural norms, but homophobia is most often used to designate a prejudicial hatred of homosexuality comparable to racism. Homophobia can be and often is institutionalised in antigay laws, policies, and the pronouncements of church and state. It also manifests itself in individuals, where its effects can range from verbal abuse to gay bashing and even murder. One of its most unfortunate manifestations is in homosexuals who have been convinced by society that their affections and desires are monstrous and deserving of punishment.

Source: Christodoulou, 2005

Intersectional gender approach

Social research method in which gender, ethnicity, class, sexuality and other social differences are simultaneously analysed.

Source: European Institute for Gender Equality, 2025

Intersex

Intersex people are born with a variety of differences in their sex traits and reproductive anatomy. There is a wide variety of differences among intersex variations, including differences in genitalia, chromosomes, gonads, internal sex organs, hormone production, hormone response, and/or secondary sex traits.

Source: HRC Foundation, 2025

Lesbian

A woman who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to other women. Women and nonbinary people may use this term to describe themselves.

Source: HRC Foundation, 2025

LGBTQIA+

Abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual. The additional '+' stands for all of the other identities not encompassed in the short acronym. An umbrella term that is often used to refer to the community as a whole.

Source: LGBTQIA Resource Center, 2025

M

Male

A biological designation for a person bearing an X and Y chromosome pair in the cell nuclei, who typically have a penis, scrotum, and testicles, and produce testosterone at adolescence.

Source: *University of Rhode Island, 2025*

Masculinity

A gender perspective, or way of analysing the impact of gender on people's opportunities, social roles and interactions, allows us to see that there is pressure on men and boys to perform and conform to specific roles. Thus, the term masculinity refers to the social meaning of manhood, which is constructed and defined socially, historically and politically, rather than being biologically driven. There are many socially constructed definitions for being a man and these can change over time and from place to place. The term relates to perceived notions and ideals about how men should or are expected to behave in a given setting. Masculinities are not just about men; women perform and produce the meaning and practices of the masculine as well.

Source: *UN Women Training Centre, 2021*

Misgender

To refer to an individual using a word, especially a pronoun or form of address, which does not correctly reflect their gender. This may be unintentional and without ill intent or can be a maliciously employed expression of bias. Regardless of intent, misgendering has a harmful impact.

Source: *Montgomery College, n.d.*

Misogynoir

A term coined by queer Black feminist Moya Bailey to describe misogyny directed towards Black women where race and gender both play roles in bias.

Source: *Montgomery College, n.d.*

N

Neopronouns

Gender-neutral pronouns such as ze/zir or ey/em that are used instead of more traditional ones such as they/them.

Source: *LGBTQIA Resource Center, 2025*

Neutrois

A non-binary gender identity that falls under the genderqueer or transgender umbrellas. There is no one definition of neutrois, since each person that self-identifies as such experiences their gender differently. The most common ones are: Neutral-gender, Null-gender, Neither male nor female, Genderless and/or Agender.

Source: *UC Davis Health, 2025*

Nonbinary

A gender identity term for a person who identifies outside of the gender binary. Nonbinary is also conceptualised as an array of genders at some distance from the gender binary. Nonbinary is sometimes written as 'non-binary.' A common abbreviation for nonbinary is enby.

Source: *Michigan State University, n.d.*

Nonmonosexual

Attracted to more than one gender. May be used for individuals who identify as fluid, bisexual, pansexual, etc.

Source: *Green & Peterson, 2003*

O

Omnigender

Possessing all genders. The term is used specifically to refute the concept of only two genders.

Source: *LGBTQIA Resource Center, 2025*

P

Pansexual

A sexual identity term that most often refers to a person who experiences sexual attraction to people of all and/or many gender identities/expressions. Also commonly shortened to 'pan.'

Source: *Michigan State University, n.d.*

Polyamory

Refers to having honest, non-monogamous relationships with multiple partners and can include open relationships, polyfidelity (which involves multiple romantic relationships with sexual contact restricted to those), and sub relationships (which denote distinguishing between a 'primary' relationship or relationships and various 'secondary' relationships).

Source: *Green & Peterson, 2003*

Preferred gender pronouns (PGP)

Refers to the set of pronouns that a person prefers (e.g., him, he, she, her, ze, hir, they). It is polite to ask for a person's preferred gender pronoun when meeting them for the first time.

Source: *Yale University, 2020*

Transitioning

A series of processes that some transgender people may undergo in order to live more fully as their true gender. This typically includes social transition, such as changing name and pronouns, medical transition, which may include hormone therapy or gender affirming surgeries, and legal transition, which may include changing legal name and sex on government identity documents. Transgender people may choose to undergo some, all or none of these processes.

Source: *HRC Foundation, 2025*

Q

Queer

An umbrella term used to describe gender/sexual/romantic orientations or identities that fall outside of societal norms. Historically, queer has been used as an epithet/slur against the LGBTQ+ community. Some people have reclaimed the word queer and self identify in opposition to assimilation [adapted from "Queering the Field"]. For some, this reclamation is a celebration of not fitting into social norms. Not all people who identify as LGBTQIA use 'queer' to describe themselves. For example, those of earlier generations are typically averse to self-identifying as queer. The term is often considered hateful when used by those who do not identify as LGBTQIA.

Source: *LGBTQIA Resource Center, 2025*

Transphobia

The irrational hatred of those who are transgender or gender nonconforming, sometimes expressed through violent and sometimes deadly means.

Source: *Green & Peterson, 2003*

Transsexual (also Transexual)

An older term which originated in the medical and psychological communities. Many transgender people prefer the term 'transgender' to 'transsexual.' It is best to ask which term an individual prefers.

Source: *Yale University, 2020*

S

Sex

Refers to the biological and physiological reality of being males or females.

Source: *UNICEF, 2017*

SOGIE

An acronym that stands for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression. It is used by some in a similar way to the umbrella acronym LGBTQIA.

Source: *LGBTQIA Resource Center, 2025*

T

Transgender

An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.

Source: *HRC Foundation, 2025*

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IIHS, CHENNAI
Floor 7A, Chaitanya Exotica, 24/51 Venkatnarayana
Road, T Nagar, Chennai 600 017, India
T +91 44 6630 5500 / 6555 6590

IIHS, MUMBAI
Flat No.2, Purnima Building, Patel Compound, 20-C,
Napean Sea Road, Mumbai, 400 006, India
T +91 22 6525 3874