

# gay GLOSSARY

**Asexual** refers to a person who is attracted to neither gender.

**Bisexual** refers to an enduring attraction toward both sexes.

**Gay** is an enduring homosexual attraction to a member of the same sex.

**Gender Identity** refers to whether an individual identifies as a male or a female. It is her or his internal sense of being male or female.

**Gender non-conformity** refers to a person who is or who perceives to have gender characteristics and/or behaviors that do not match to traditional societal expectations.

**Heterosexism** is a belief system that male-female sexuality is the only natural, normal or moral mode of sexual behavior and that this idea results in a reinforcement of stigma and power differentials associated with this belief.

**Heterosexual (straight)** refers to people whose sexual and romantic feelings are mostly for the opposite gender: Men who are attracted to women and women who are attracted to men.

**Homophobia** is an irrational fear about homosexual individuals.

**Homosexual (gay)** refers to people whose sexual and romantic feelings are mostly for the same gender: Men who are attracted to men and women who are attracted to women.

**Lesbian** is a woman with an enduring homosexual attraction to another woman.

**LGBTQ** stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning identity.

**Metrosexual** refers to the characteristics of a metropolitan male of any sexual orientation who carries a strong aesthetic presence and exerts a large amount of time and expense on appearance and living.

**Pansexual** refers to aesthetic attraction, romantic love, or sexual desire towards people, regardless of their gender identity or biological sex.

**Queer** defines a community of people that feel the gender binary does not define them. They may not conform to standard alleged perceived gender roles and don't want to be limited by the gender binary.

**Sex** is any willful behavior that is intended to lead to sexual arousal.

**Sexual Behavior** refers to an individual's participation in activities that are defined as sex.

**Sexual Identity** refers to how an individual perceives him or herself to be as a result of their sexual feelings, attraction and behavior.

**Sexual Orientation** refers to which gender an individual feels sexually, emotionally and romantically attracted.

**Straight Ally** refers to any non-LGBTQ person who supports and stands up for the rights of LGBTQ people.

**Transgender** is a person who dresses as, desires to be, or has undergone surgery to become or identify as someone of the opposite sex. Is also often as a synonym for transsexual, transvestite, or queer.

**Transsexual** is a person who identifies with the opposite of their biological gender and sometimes desires a physical alteration of their body or hormones to become more aligned with their gender of identification.

**Transvestite** refers to an individual who enjoys dressing publicly and privately in a way typically associated with the other gender.