

TERMINOLOGY

GENDER IDENTITY: A person's innate sense of their own gender, which can include being female, male, or non-binary. The responsibility for determining an individual's gender identity rests with the individual.

GENDER EXPRESSION: The way a person represents or expresses gender to others, often through external appearance, characteristics, or behaviors.

GENDER NONCONFORMING: A term for people whose gender expression differs from stereotypical expectations, people who identify outside traditional gender categories, or identify as multiple genders.

GENDER FLUID: A gender identity which refers to a gender which varies over time or in response to different circumstances. Gender fluid people may also identify as multigender, non-binary and/or transgender.

TRANSGENDER: An adjective describing a person whose gender identity does not correspond with their sex assigned at birth.

SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH: The sex (male or female) given to a child at birth, most often based on the child's external anatomy.

NON-BINARY: Preferred umbrella term for all genders other than female/male or woman/man.

CISGENDER: A person whose gender identity corresponds to their sex assigned at birth.

NAME OF USE: The name that a person would like others to use when speaking to or about them.

PRONOUNS: The set(s) of pronouns that a person would like others to use when speaking to or about them. People use pronouns as a means of expressing their gender identity.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION: A person's romantic and/or physical attraction to people of the same or opposite gender or other genders.

TRANSITION: The process in which a person goes from publicly identifying as one gender to identifying as another. Transition is a process that is different for everyone, and it may or may not involve social, legal, or physical changes.

For more terms and definitions, visit: genderspectrum.org/articles/language-of-gender