

Cisgender – A person who identifies with the gender they were assigned at birth/the gender they were raised with. Cisgender people are accorded certain privileges by society that others do not receive.

Gender – Socially and culturally constructed notions of what it means to be a man, a woman, masculine and feminine; the practices that mark people as belonging to these categories. We live within a system where it is assumed that people identify with the gender in which they were raised, and/or with how they are perceived by others. Examples of how this manifests include how people are expected to express emotion, walk, talk and dress; what activities they are expected to participate in; what colors they like; etc.

Gender Identity – A person's self-understanding or self-definition of their gender (e.g., trans man, cisgender woman, genderqueer, or many others), which may or may not correlate to what society or other people tell them their gender should be. In short, "how you name your gender."

Gender Presentation – The external behaviors and characteristics (e.g., dress, mannerisms, social interactions, speech patterns) that a person displays in order to indicate their gender identity. Gender expression may change over time and from day-to-day, and may or may not conform to an individual's gender identity. In short, "how you express your gender."

Sex – Separate from gender, this "scientific" term refers to an array of biological, anatomical and physiological characteristics associated with maleness and femaleness in the body (such as external genitalia, internal sex organs, hormones and chromosomes). It is often asserted that there are two biological sexes among human beings, but in reality many people don't fit the standards and norms of those two categories; some scientists have identified 5 or more biological sex categories among human beings, while many people assert the entire concept as socially constructed. As a side note: 'Sex' is often used synonymously with 'gender' in our society. Although the two terms are related, they should be defined separately to differentiate the biological ("sex") from the socio-cultural ("gender").

Sexuality – The expression, contemplation or existence of attraction/sexual feelings toward other beings and/or oneself.

Transgender – A person who does not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth/the gender they were raised with. Said person does NOT necessarily identify as the "opposite" gender (see "gender" and "gender identity").

Definitions based on "Common Trans 'Definitions' and Terms" – compiled by Raphael Carter, Evan Hempel and Joelle Ruby Ryan, and edited by Jack Skelton in 2007.