

FOREWORD

Not much is available in Pakistan on the terminologies used for Sexual and Gender Minorities (SGMs) and often there is confusion between issues of sexual orientations and gender identities. This list is developed for students, activists, lawyers, faculty members, judiciary, policy makers, doctors and psychologists or anyone who believes in equality and who work in sexual minorities, gender and gender identity, I hope they will find this list useful.

This list is neither comprehensive nor inviolable, but it's a work in progress. Identity terms are tricky, and trying to write a description that works perfectly for everyone using that label simply isn't possible. Some definitions here may include words you aren't familiar with, or have been taught a flawed or incomplete definition for; this is just the beginning and with your input and suggestions we will improve this list in the coming editions.

This publication is first of its kind in Pakistan and is a living document. If you want other relevant terminologies to be added in the coming edition, please send your suggestion and submission to qamar@blueveins.org

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Love, Colors and Peace

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Accessibility

The term is used as a way of shifting focus from the person who is breaking the norm to criticizing the excluding structure. Talking about accessibility makes it easier to highlight the problems in a certain environment that prevent a person from accessing it or actively participating, rather than talking about it as a problem related to the individual.

Asexual

A person who may not experience sexual attraction during a period of their life, does not wish to engage sexually with other people. Asexual can be used as an umbrella term for people who identify with the term in different ways, such as demisexual – when a person only feels sexual attraction to another person after having established a deep emotional connection, or autosexual – when a person only wishes to have sex with themselves. There is considerable diversity among the asexual community with many people identifying with and using the term differently.

Agender

Agender is also called genderblank, genderfree, genderless, gendervoid, non-gendered, or null gender. Agender is an identity under the nonbinary and transgender umbrella terms. Agender individuals find that they have no gender identity, although some define this more as having a gender identity that is neutral.

Agenderflux

A term which describes someone who is agender but experiences intermittent periods of feeling masculine or feminine.

Androgyny

Androgyny is the combination of masculine and feminine characteristics. Gender ambiguity may be found in fashion, gender identity, sexual identity, or sexual lifestyle. It can also refer to one's singing or speaking voice.

Abrosexual

Abrosexuality is a sexual orientation condition where the individual's sexuality fluctuates and cannot be pinned down for this reason.

Antisexual

It is a sexual orientation condition used for individuals who desire to be asexual but are not.

Apressexuality

It is a sexual orientation condition where the individual only feels sexual attraction after another form of attraction is felt.

Androphilia

Refers to sexual attraction and arousal to adult males or masculinity, whereas gynephilia refers to sexual attraction and arousal to adult females or femininity.

Autosexual

Is someone who has a sex drive but would rather masturbate than have sex with someone else and masturbation would be a pleasurable experience for them. It sounds like some asexuals have a sex drive and masturbate, but don't really get much enjoyment out of it.

Ally

A (typically straight- or cis-identified) person who supports, and respects for members of the LGBTQ community. While the word doesn't necessitate action, we consider people to be active allies who take action upon this support and respect, this also indicates to others that you are an ally.

Aromantic

Experiencing little or no romantic attraction to others or has a lack of interest in romantic relationships/behavior. Aromanticism exists on a continuum from people who experience no romantic attraction or have any desire for romantic activities, to those who experience low levels, or romantic attraction only under specific conditions, and many of these different places on the continuum have their own identity labels.

Biological Sex

A medical term used to refer to the chromosomal, hormonal and anatomical characteristics that are used to classify an individual as female or male or intersex.

BDSM

Abbreviation of Bondage & Discipline (BD), Dominance & Submission (DS), and Sadism & Masochism (SM). BDSM is a way of practicing one's sexuality, identity and/or preferences, where a mutual erotic exchange of power is involved, often expressed as dominance and submission. Sometimes engaging in consensual pain is part of the sexual interaction. For some people, BDSM is a sexual orientation.

Bigender

Bigender is a gender identity which can be literally translated as 'two genders' or 'double gender'. Bigender people experience exactly two gender identities, either simultaneously or varying between the two. These two gender identities could be male and female, but could also include non-binary identities.

Butch

Terminology used for a person who identifies themselves as masculine, whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally. 'Butch' is sometimes used as a derogatory term for lesbians, but is also be claimed as an affirmative identity label.

Bisexual

A person who has a romantic or sexual attraction to another person regardless of their sex or gender identity. Bi means two and implies that there are only two sexes. For this reason, some people identify as pansexual rather than bisexual, recognising that there is a spectrum of sex and gender.

Bicurious

A curiosity about having attraction to people of the same gender/sex .

Chhukka

Chhaka is a term for third-gender in India which is said to have its origin in Kannada, native language of Karnataka, India.

It is not known whether the original meaning of the term was supposed to be offensive, but today the term is considered ultra-offensive (like calling someone 'lady-boy' in English).

Most transgender people will be offended if you use this term for either them or for any other person at all. When you are using it for a person who is not transgender, you are implying that transgender people are some kinds of sub-humans and that it is horrible just to be one of them. So, please refrain from using this term in a derogatory sense.

Coming Out

The process by which one accepts or comes to identify one's own sexuality or gender identity (to “come out” to oneself). In other words the process by which one shares one's sexuality or gender identity with others (to “come out” to friends, etc).

Closeted

An individual who is not open to themselves or others about their (queer) sexuality or gender identity. This may be by choice or for other reasons such as fear for one's safety, peer or family rejection or disapproval or loss of housing, job, etc. Also known as being “in the closet.”

Cis Person/ Cis Gender

A person who identifies with the sex they were assigned at birth. Cis is latin for “on the same side” Cisgender (often abbreviated to simply cis) is a term for people who have a gender identity that matches the sex that they were assigned at birth. Cisgender may also be defined as those who have "a gender identity or perform a gender role society considers appropriate for one's sex.”

Cisnormativity

The assumption that all people identify with the legal sex assigned to them at birth, and that people are expected to live according to the social codes that are associated with that sex. There is also the assertion

that cisgender is the norm and being transgender is therefore abnormal or unnatural also in other words; the assumption, in individuals or in institutions, that everyone is cisgender, and that cisgender identities are superior to trans identities or people. Leads to invisibility of non-cisgender identities.

Compulsory Ableism

A social structure whereby status and privilege is conferred upon a person based on their able-bodiedness, while people with different disabilities are excluded and made invisible. Compulsory ableism categorises certain bodies and disabilities as deviant, as the ideal norm is a fully able body. In reality, all bodies have a variety of different abilities and this also changes throughout a lifetime.

Cross-Dresser

Cross Dresser is Someone who dresses in the clothing opposite of the gender they were assigned at birth.

Cissexism

It is a behavior that grants preferential treatment to cisgender people, reinforces the idea that being cisgender is somehow better or more “right” than being transgender or makes other genders invisible.

Constellation

A way to describe the arrangement or structure of a polyamorous relationship. - See (Polyamorous)

Caedogender

Someone who once identified as a certain gender, but that gender has since been “cut away” by a traumatic event.

Crystagender

When gender randomly changes, often feeling broken or fractured between multiple genders.

Cassexuality

It is a sexual orientation condition where the person feels as though sexual orientation is unimportant to them.

Chapstick Lesbian

A lesbian who doesn't try to look feminine.

Disability

Limitations of a person's ability in relation to what is considered to be the norm. There are psychological, cognitive and physical disabilities. A person has a disability; a person is not disabled.

Drag King/Drag Queen

A person who uses gender roles, social attributes and symbols to challenge the boundaries between male and female. Often an exaggerated performance with the purpose of entertaining an audience, or in a playful way to express part of their identity.

Demiromantic

Little or no capacity to experience romantic attraction until a strong sexual or emotional connection is formed with another individual, often within a sexual relationship.

Demi Sexual

An individual who does not experience sexual attraction unless they have formed a strong emotional connection with another individual. Often within a romantic relationship.

Disadvantaged Group

Group within a society that is marginalized and has reduced access to resources and services such as education, health, credit and power.

Discrimination

A difference in treatment based on age, sex, ethnicity, religion or other factors, rather than on individual merit.

Dyke

A person who commonly identifies as a woman and has a romantic or sexual attraction to other women. Dyke is often used synonymously with the word lesbian.

Dyadism

The sexist belief that humans have only two sexes, either female or male, resulting in discrimination against intersex people.

Eunuch

The term which is typically used for a male who is castrated. The castration is a medical technique in which the testes of the male or ovaries of the female are made non-functional; this can be achieved surgically or through some other non-conventional technique. Historical records reveal that this category of eunuchs was first identified in Sumerians.

Epicene

Having a lack of gender distinction.

Emotional Attraction

A capacity that evokes the want to engage in romantic intimate behavior (e.g., sharing, confiding, trusting, interdepending), experienced in varying degrees (from little-to-none, to intense). Often conflated with sexual attraction, romantic attraction or spiritual attraction.

FTM/F2M

Abbreviation of Female-to-Male (transgender person). A person who transitions from “female-to-male”, meaning a person who was assigned female at birth, but identifies and lives, or wants to live, as a male, also known as a transgender man.

Feminine-of-center / Masculine-of-center

A word that indicates a range of terms of gender identity and gender presentation for folks who present, understand themselves or relate to others in a more feminine/masculine way, but don't necessarily identify as women/men. Feminine-of-center individuals may also identify as femme, submissive, transfeminine, etc.; masculine-of-center individuals may also often identify as butch, stud, aggressive, boi, transmasculine, etc.

Feminine-Presenting / Masculine-Presenting

A way to describe someone who expresses gender in a more feminine/masculine way. Often confused with feminine-of-center/masculine-of-center, which generally include a focus on identity as well as expression.

Femme

Someone who identifies themselves as feminine, whether it be physically, mentally or emotionally. Often used to refer to a feminine-presenting queer woman.

Gay Man

A person who identifies as a man, and has a romantic or sexual attraction to other men.

Genderism

"The system of belief that there are only two genders (men and women) and that gender is inherently tied to one's sex assigned at birth. It holds cisgender people as superior to transgender people, and punishes or excludes those who don't conform to society's expectations of gender.

Gender Binary

The dominant social system and classification of all people based on their sex and gender into two distinct, oppositional and disconnected forms of male (masculine) and female (feminine).

The gender binary classifies people into one of only two groups and assumes that the differences between the groups are greater than the differences between individuals within the groups. The gender binary permeates all of our social interactions and structures within society.

Since long, there have been only two highlighted terms in the gender system; i.e. male and female. Then other variants originated such as 'gay' and 'lesbian'. And now as it may seem, the categories are growing further according to sexual orientation and interests; such as bisexuals and transgender. However, experts now have an umbrella term to define all other sexual orientations and interests. A person can simply be a male or a female, but he or she can like the fashion sense of the opposite gender and may adapt it for their inner satisfaction. This adaptation, however, does not come under the definition of transgender.

Gender Dysphoria

Unhappiness with one's physical/anatomical gender and also, dissatisfaction with one's gender socialization.

Gender Non-Conforming

A term for individuals whose gender expression is different from societal expectations related to gender.

Gender Identity

An individual's internal sense of being male, female or something else since gender identity is internal, one's gender identity is not necessarily visible to others.

Gender Expression

Gender Expression is how a person represents or expresses one's gender identity to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, and voice or body characteristics.

Gender Fluid

Gender fluid is a gender identity which refers to a gender which varies over time. A gender fluid person may at any time identify as male, female, neutrois, or any other non-binary identity, or some combination of identities. Their gender can also vary at random or vary in response to different circumstances.

Gender Confirming/Affirming Treatment

The range of medical or surgical treatments offered to transgender and gender-diverse people, including counseling, speech and language therapy, hair removal, hormone therapy, and surgeries. To access publicly funded gender affirming treatment in Sweden, a person must first be assessed at one of the gender clinics. Within the healthcare system, the term gender reassignment treatment is commonly used.

Gender Normative / Gender Straight

Someone whose gender presentation, whether by nature or by choice, aligns with society's gender-based expectations.

Gender-Neutral Pronouns

Gender-neutral pronouns, such as zie and they, are used primarily when a person does not identify as a man or woman, but rather as intergender, genderqueer or non-binary, for example. Zie or they can also be used when referring to a person whose gender identity is unknown. (Zir, hir, hirs and they, their, theirs)

Gender Queer (GQ)

A person who self-identifies as between or beyond the gender categories of man/male and woman/female. Genderqueer can be used synonymously with intergender or non-binary.

Gender Questioning

The questioning of one's gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, or all three is a process of exploration by people who may be unsure, still exploring and concerned about applying a social label to themselves for various reasons.

Gender/Sex

In most contexts, the terms gender and sex are used interchangeably to systematically separate people into the different groups of men and women, however, gender/sex is much more complex.

Gender Variant

An individual who deviates from the expected characteristics of their sexual gender.

Gatekeeper System

In the transgender community, this is slang for the system of health providers that decide whether to allow a transgender person to get gender-validating health care.

Guru

Guru is a teacher in the hijra system, under whose apprenticeship a chela (student) learns the principles of the hijra subculture and through whom a chela is identified. Guru is the counterpart of a “patraiarch” in the hijra system.

Gynesexual / Gynephilic

Being primarily sexually, romantically or emotionally attracted to some woman, females or femininity.

Hate Crimes

Extreme expressions of prejudice through violent criminal acts that are committed against people or their property because of the group to which they belong or identify with. Perpetrators seek to demean and dehumanise their victims because they consider them to be different from themselves.

Hijra

The term or community of people is most commonly found in South Asian countries (like Pakistan, India, Bangladesh) and refer to males who intentionally adopts a female character such as dressing up like females. (In terms of clothing and wearing makeup, jewelry etc.)

The concept of Hijras dates back to Indian Sub-continent when the Mughal's promoted cross-dressing practices as a form of art or amusement for the elite class. In Pakistan, hijra's usually live in a community setup under a 'guru' who acts as their leader or head of the family. Sometime transgender community finds it derogatory term to recognize transgender person.

Hijra Farsi

Is a secret language spoken by South-Asian hijra and koti communities. The language, also known as Koti Farsi, is spoken by the hijra community throughout Pakistan and North India (except West Bengal). The language is based on Hindustani and not Farsi, as suggested by the name. The sentence structure is similar to Urdu, but noticeable distinctions exist. [Even though the language is not actually based on Farsi (Persian), the hijras consider the language to be related to the language of the Mughal Empire, which they associate with the origin of hijra identity. Hijra Farsi is most similar to Hindi, but is not intelligible to Hindi speakers due to distinctive intonation and a large amount of distinctive vocabulary. After the partition of India, the language has come to include words of local languages including Punjabi, Seraiki, Sindhi, Pushtoo and other languages. Its also called as farsi kalam.

Hijra Dera

House where khawajasiras/ moorats/ hijras live together in a community.

Hermaphrodite

An outdated medical term previously used to refer to someone who was born with some combination of typically-male and typically-female sex characteristics. It's considered stigmatizing and inaccurate.

Heterosexism

Behavior that grants preferential treatment to heterosexual people, reinforces the idea that heterosexuality is somehow better or more "right" than queerness or makes other sexualities invisible.

Heteronormativity

The system of norms that affect our understanding of gender and sexuality. According to heteronormativity, people are either a man/boy or woman/girl and nothing else. Women and girls are expected to be feminine, and boys and men are expected to be masculine, with everyone expected to be heterosexual.

We are all impacted by these norms, whether we conform to them or not. If we do conform or "pass", we are entitled to certain financial, political, and social privileges. To resist and take a stand against heteronormativity, not conforming or not "passing", may result in different levels of punishment, from invisibility to violence. (See also Gender Binary).

Heterosexual

A person primarily emotionally, physically or sexually attracted to members of the opposite sex. Also known as straight.

Homophobia

An ideology or attitude that is rooted in a strongly negative view of homosexuality or homosexual and bisexual people. Homophobia and transphobia usually overlap.

Homosexual

A person who has a romantic and/or sexual attraction to other people of the same sex.

Hypersexual

Having a highly active sex drive.

Hyposexual

Having a sex drive that isn't very active, and contented with that situation.

Intergender

A person who self-identifies as between or beyond the gender categories of man/male and woman/female. Intergender is often used synonymously with non-binary and genderqueer.

Intersectionality

A perspective that is used to study how different power structures in society are interconnected, and how different identities emerge as a result of class, religion, gender, sexuality and age, depending on the individual person, community, and context.

Intersex/Inter*

Intersex is an umbrella term used for a variety of experiences in which a person is born with, or develops, a reproductive or sexual anatomy that does not fit the typical definitions of female or male. An intersex person may identify as female, male, or neither, and this has nothing to do with how they define their sexuality. *Inter is Latin for between, and so intersex means between the sexes. A person who is not intersex is referred to as dyadic.

Institutional Oppression

Arrangement of a society used to benefit one group at the expense of another through the use of language, media education, religion and economics.

Khawaja Sira

A Respectful Urdu term for hijras, transgender women and eunuchs.

Khusra

The word Khusra means a eunuch in Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu. It is used throughout south asia. It is also used as a slang for "Pakistani", since most of the Pakistanis are considered to be eunuch in India and Bangladesh.

Legal Gender/Sex

The sex/gender as stated in the Population Register, passports and identity documentation.

Lesbian

A person who commonly identifies as a woman and has a romantic or sexual attraction to other women.

Lipstick Lesbian

Usually refers to a lesbian with a feminine gender expression. Can be used in a positive or a derogatory way. Is sometimes also used to refer to a lesbian who is assumed to be (or passes for) straight.

LGBTQ

An umbrella term for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. The L, G, and B refer to sexual orientation, who a person feels romantically or sexually attracted to, and the T refers to gender identity and expression. Q refers to queer in relation to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or relationships and sexual practice, but it also represents a critical view of existing norms .

Maverique

A specific nonbinary gender identity "characterized by autonomy and inner conviction regarding a sense of self that is entirely independent of male/masculinity, female/femininity or anything which derives from the two while still being neither without gender nor of a neutral gender.

Metrosexual

A man with a strong aesthetic sense who spends more time, energy, or money on his appearance and grooming than is considered gender normative.

Monoamorous/Monogamous

A person who has sexual or romantic relationships exclusively with one person at a time.

Moorat

Morat is polite term for hijras and khawaja siras.

Misgender

To address someone in a way that contradicts their gender identity. This can be accidental, but if intentional, it can be an example of discrimination against transgender people. (cissexism)

MSM / WSW

Abbreviations : men who have sex with men or women who have sex with women, to distinguish sexual behaviors from sexual identities: because a man is straight, it doesn't mean he's not having sex with men. Often used in the field of HIV/Aids education, prevention, and treatment.

MTF

Also known as a “transgender woman”, a person who transitions from “male-to-female,” meaning a person who was assigned male at birth, but identifies and lives as a female.

MTF/M2F

Abbreviation of Male-to-Female (transgender person). A person who transitions from “male-to-female”, meaning a person who was assigned male at birth, but identifies and lives, or wants to live, as a female, also known as a transgender woman.

Mx.

“Mix” or “Schwa” / – an honorific (e.g. Mr., Ms., Mrs., etc.) that is gender neutral. It is often the option of choice for folks who do not identify within the gender binary.

Non-Binary

A person who self-identifies as between, beyond, with both, or neither of the gender categories of woman/man. Sometimes non-binary is used as an umbrella term for different gender identities that do not fit within the gender binary, such as intergender or genderqueer.

Non-binary does not mean the same thing for everyone who identifies with it. For some, it means feeling both male and female; for others, they are between the two categories, while many non-binary people do not identify with any gender at all. Some people may wish to change their bodies with hormonal treatment or surgeries.

Norm Critique

A pedagogical method with the purpose of contributing to increased social equality. The aim is to shift focus from individuals, who are seen as different, to analyzing social structures and questioning what is considered to be “normal”. When working with a norm-critical perspective, there are three steps to take into consideration:

- Highlighting and questioning norms
- Highlighting the privileges conferred on those who conform to the norm
- Reviewing one's own position

Novo Sexual

Feeling complicated attraction or lack thereof in such a way that it is difficult or impossible to fit into one word or term.

Neutrois

Neutrois is a non-binary gender identity that falls under the genderqueer or transgender umbrellas.

Nonlibidoist

A person who doesn't have a sex drive, and feels contented with that situation.

Outing

Involuntary or unwanted disclosure of another person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status.

Omnioromantic/Omnisexual

A sexual orientation in which a person feels sexual attraction to all genders of consenting adults.

A romantic orientation in which a person feels romantic attraction to all genders.

Pangender

Pangender (and/or Omnigender) is a non-binary gender experience which refers to a wide multiplicity of genders that can (or not) tend to the infinite (meaning that this experience can go beyond the current knowledge of genders). This experience can be either simultaneously or over time.

Pansexual

A person who experiences romantic and/or sexual attraction to any person regardless of their gender. The word pan, meaning all, suggests that there is a spectrum of sexes and genders rather than only two, as implied by the term, bisexual.

Polysexuality

Polysexuality is the attraction to multiple genders. A polysexual person is one "encompassing or characterized by many different kinds of sexuality.

Polyamorous

A person who has sexual or emotional relationships with more than one person at a time.

Prejudice

Intolerance of a group of people because of their sexual orientation, sex, gender, race, language, culture, religion, age, disability, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Pronoun

She, he, zie, they – how a person wants to be referred to when talked about by other people (for example, Zie is kind, I like hir). A person's pronoun may or may not reflect their gender identity. If you are uncertain about a person's pronoun, you can ask them in a respectful way. ("What is your pronoun?/What pronoun would you like me to use when I talk about you?") Some people prefer to be referred to by their name, rather than a pronoun. They is often used when a person's gender is unknown.

Placiosexuality

The term placiosexual is used for individuals who feel little to no desire to receive sexual acts but expresses desire to perform them on someone else.

Passing

Trans people being accepted as, or able to "pass for," a member of their self-identified gender identity (regardless of sex assigned at birth) without being identified as trans. An LGB/queer individual who is believed to be or perceived as straight.

- Passing is a controversial term because it often is focusing on the person who is observing or interacting with the individual who is “passing” and puts the power/authority in observer rather than giving agency to the individual.
- While some people are looking to “pass” or perhaps more accurately be accepted for the identity that they feel most aligns with who they are “passing” is not always a positive experience.
- Some individuals experience a sense of erasure or a feeling of being invisible to their own community when they are perceived to be part of the dominant group.

PGPs

Its an abbreviation of Preferred Gender Pronouns. Often used during introductions, becoming more common in educational institutions. Many suggest removing the “preferred,” because it indicates flexibility and/or the power for the speaker to decide which pronouns to use for someone else.

Pivotgender

Someone whose gender changes depending on who they are around note: not to be confused with mutogender, which goes for people and situations”. Can also be called swivelgender.

Queer

A term based upon a critical view of ideas about what is considered normal or not regarding gender and sexuality, and how everyone is placed in specific categories resulting from a heterosexual and gender binarist perspective. In other words, a way of questioning dominant social ideas about how people should experience sexual, as well as other, relationships, how we should form families, express our gender, and so on.

There are also queer activists who organise to challenge existing norms and structures, and people who call themselves queer. For some, being queer is a way of defining their gender identity and/or sexual orientation, while for others it offers an identity where one does not have to define one's sexual orientation or gender.

Racialization

A process that legitimizes people from a privileged position to ascribe to others certain personal traits, experiences, opinions, cultural attributes, based on assumptions about their color, ethnicity and/or religion, which leads to exclusion and inequality.

Sapiosexuality

Is a sexual orientation condition where the individual feels sexual attraction solely due to the intelligence of other individuals.

Sex

The biological characteristics of being male or female those are genetically determined.

Sexual Orientation

A term that describes a person's identity regarding the focus of their romantic and/or sexual attraction. According to Swedish anti-discrimination legislation, there are three distinct sexual orientations – heterosexual, bisexual, and homosexual. These terms are based on the notion that there are only two sexes – hetero other, bi two, and homo same as one's own.

Skolio Sexual

A term refers to “sexual attraction to non-binary identified individuals” or those who do not identify as cisgender. The site also notes that “this does not generally describe an attraction to specific genitalia or birth assignments but rather is an inclusive term.

Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS)

Terminology used by some medical professionals to refer to a group of surgical options that alter a person's biological sex. “Gender Confirmation Surgery (GCS)” is considered by many to be a more affirming term. In most cases, one or multiple surgeries are required to achieve legal recognition of gender variance. Some refer to different surgical procedures as “top” surgery and “bottom” surgery to discuss what type of surgery they are having without having to be more explicit.

SOFFA

This is an abbreviation which means Short for Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies. This means people who aren't LGBT, but who care about and help LGBT people.

Stealth

Stealth a trans person who is not “out” as trans, and is perceived by others as cisgender.

Straight

A person primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to people who are not their same sex/gender. A more colloquial term for the word heterosexual.

Transgender Woman

A term for a transgender individual who currently identifies as a woman. (see also “MTF”)

Transsexual

An older term for people whose gender identity is different from their assigned sex at birth who seeks to transition from male to female or female to male. Many do not prefer this term because it is thought to sound overly clinical.

Transfeminine

Transfeminine is a term used to describe transgender people who were assigned male at birth, but identify with femininity to a greater extent than with masculinity.

Transactivism

The movement for rights for transgender people.

Transgenderist

A transgender person who has lived full time without wanting surgery.

Trans-Misogyny

Discrimination and hate crimes against transgender women.

Transgender/Trans Person

A person who does not identify with the sex assigned to them at birth. Transgender is an umbrella term with several different identities, as there are many different ways of being transgender. The term specifically refers to gender identity and gender expression, and has nothing to do with a person's sexual orientation. The term 'Transgender' is often used interchangeably with terms such as transsexual, gay or lesbian, male-woman, eunuchs, shemales and cross dresser. However, based on research, it can be safely suggested that there are some fine differences that may help in delineating these individuals.

Transsexualism

The condition is more commonly identified in the western world in which the person feels serious discomfort in his/her own gender and develops a desire to be the member of opposite sex. In other words, individuals usually develop a strong dissatisfaction towards their biological gender and some even take a step further and go under the knife to get what their heart desires. In some societies, this condition or phenomenon is treated like a mental illness and is critical and controversial to be discussed due to religious aspects and cultural values.

Transitioning

This term is primarily used to refer to the process a trans person undergoes when changing their bodily appearance either to be more congruent with the gender/sex they feel themselves to be and/or to be in harmony with their preferred gender expression.

Transgenderism

Sometimes this condition is misunderstood by people as a form of intentional perversion. In reality transgenderism is very frequently a result of hormonal changes and mental status issues; however the person is generally completely normal physically with an XY chromosome (or XX chromosome in case of females).

Transphobia

Is prejudice or discrimination against trans people. This can include harassment, violence and the restriction of medical, legal and civil rights.

Transsexual Person

Transsexual people have a gender identity that is inconsistent with their assigned sex and desire to permanently transition to the gender with which they identify, usually seeking medical treatment to more fully align their body with their identified gender. Transsexualism/gender dysphoria is a medical diagnosis by which a person is assessed to undergo gender confirming/affirming treatment within the Swedish healthcare system. This process is usually referred to as transition and entails hormone treatment and surgery to change the body to become more “masculine” or “feminine”.

Gender identity is separate and distinct from a person's sexual orientation – a transsexual person can be heterosexual, bisexual, pansexual, asexual or homosexual. Some transsexual people still identify as trans after their transition and call themselves a trans man or trans woman, while for many it is important to see themselves and be seen by others simply as a man or woman.

Transvestite

A transvestite is a person who dresses in a style or manner traditionally associated with the opposite sex.

Transrespect

Transrespect is opposite to transphobia. It means that transgender persons are respected and valued despite of their gender identity and expressions.

Two-Spirit

A contemporary term that refers to the historical and current First Nations people whose individuals' spirits were a blend of male and female spirits. This term has been reclaimed by some in Native American LGBT communities in order to honor their heritage and provide an alternative to the Western labels of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

Unisex

Unisex refers to things that are not gender-specific, being suitable for any gender, but can also be another term for gender-blindness. The term was coined in the 1960s and was used informally.

Zenana

A term used by hijras for effeminate men who has sex with men. They occupy a sub-category within the hijra culture, and wear men's clothes.

Ze

Student Union Officers at Oxford University in recent issued a leaflet advising students to use gender neutral pronouns such as “ze” instead of “he” or “she” to avoid offence of transgender people who are not comfortable with “he or she” pronouns.



ABOUT THE RESEARCHER

Qamar Naseem is a transgender rights activist, human rights defender and social activist. He is an out of the box thinker; outstanding voice for the transgender community and an outspoken social justice advocate. Qamar spends a lot of time thinking about race, gender, class, sexuality, faith, and the intersections thereof.

Qamar believes life is a journey that is best lived through exploration, curiosity and wonder. He has committed his life to community organizing in areas of intersections, where issues of race, gender, sexuality, faith and economic justice collides. He is leading several rights based alliances and networks and is winner of the “No Peace Without Justice International Award of Courage” (Italy). He is working in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to strengthen the transgender people's movement in challenging environment and has mobilized the transgender and intersex community by initiating a provincial alliance of transgender called “TransAction Pakistan”.

Qamar is working to change/improve laws, polices, and attitudes so that all people can live safely, authentically, and free from discrimination regardless of gender identity and expressions. He is member of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister's Special Committee on the Rights of Transgender Persons. He can be reached on

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