



2SLGBTQIA+ Dictionary

In the following pages, you will see a dictionary of terms for Phoenix Staff and youth to help inform and learn about words and/or terminology you may hear focused on the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community. This is meant to be a quick guide and does not pretend to include each and every term, or even every definition for some of these words. From the staff who created this document, please note that this dictionary is intended to be a quick reference guide that we acknowledge is not complete, nor will it ever be.

For any comments that you see in **red**, it should be noted that these comments are specific notes pertaining to this definition. It may inform you that a term is out of date or inform you of some misconceptions around the term. For an entire definition that is in **red**, this is meant to highlight a negative word associated with the 2SLGBTQIA+ that have been used in derogatory manners.

Feedback is always welcomed. If you are reading this dictionary and see something missing, or an incomplete definition, please chat with any staff at Phoenix who will bring your comments forward.



2SLGBTQIA+ Dictionary

A quick (and incomplete) reference for Phoenix Staff

2SLGBTQIA+: An acronym describing the community of people who identify as gender and/or sexual minorities. The acronym stands for: **2-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer** and/or **Questioning, Intersex, Asexual** and/or **Aromantic**, and any other related identities not otherwise listed ('+'). **Please note that the 'A' does not stand for ally.**

2-Spirit: An English term meant to simplify and convey the complexities of identities, orientations, and experiences outside the gender binary found in various First Nations' cultures. This term was designated in 1990 at the Indigenous Lesbian and Gay International Gathering in Winnipeg.

Achillean: A man who is attracted to other men. This term does not refer exclusively to **gay** men.

AFAB/DFAB: A person who was Assigned or Designated Female At Birth based on the look of their genitals.

Agender: A person who does not have a gender. This term is considered to be under the **nonbinary** umbrella.

Allosexual: A person who experiences sexual attraction.

Ally: A **straight, cisgender** person who believes in and works to defend the rights of those who are a part of the **2SLGBTQIA+** community.

AMAB/DMAB: A person who was Assigned or Designated Male At Birth based on the look of their genitals.

Androgynous: A person who does not appear to favour femininity or masculinity in appearance, but instead presents with traits typically associated with both; not necessarily related to being **transgender** or **intersex**.

Apogender: A person who feels they exist outside the concept of gender.

Aromantic/Aro: A person who does not experience (or experiences very little) romantic attraction.

Asexual/Ace: A person who does not experience (or experiences very little) sexual attraction.

Berdache: **A pan-Indigenous word created by non-Indigenous anthropologists referring to Indigenous individuals who did not adhere to colonial ideas of gender roles.**

Binder: A gender-affirming garment designed to compress breast tissue, creating a smoother and flatter look at the chest. These are typically designed similarly to tank tops and can come at a cropped length or full torso-length.

Bigender: A person who identifies as having two genders.

Bisexual: A person who is sexually attracted to two or more genders. This term was coined by psychiatrists in the DSM-II to describe attraction to 'both' genders (meaning men and women) as a mental illness. These psychiatrists did not acknowledge the existence of more than two genders, thus the prefix, 'bi-.'

Bottom Surgery: Gender-affirming surgery involving the reshaping of one's genitals. This includes vaginoplasty (construction or reparation of a vulva/vagina), as well as phalloplasty and/or metoidioplasty (construction, reparation or enlargement of a penis).

Butch: A masculine-presenting **2SLGBTQIA+** woman.

Cisgender/cis: A person who identifies with the gender they were assigned at birth.

Cishet: A noun referring to a person who is **cisgender** and **heterosexual**.

Cisnormativity: The assumption that everyone is **cisgender**, and that being cisgender is 'normal' and/or superior to being **transgender**. This leads to the erasure and exclusion of transgender identities.

Cissexism: Prejudice attitudes and behaviour that grant preferential treatment to **cisgender** people, reinforcing the idea that being **cisgender** is superior to being **transgender**.

Closeted: A person belonging to the **2SLGBTQIA** community who is aware of their identity but chooses not to share this aspect of themselves with others for reasons such as fear of rejection or maintaining personal safety.

Crossdressing: An outdated term for a person who dresses in clothes typically associated with another gender. This term is not associated with being **transgender**, although it has been historically used to oppress this community.

Deadname: The name by which a trans person used to be addressed before coming **out**. This might also be called a person's birth name, or legal name if they have not had it changed.

Demisexual: A person who only experiences sexual attraction to people they have romantic feelings for.

Diamoric: A nonbinary person who is attracted to other nonbinary people.

Drag: A type of performance based on the exaggerated traits typically attributed to one gender. The person performing can be of the same or different gender as the character being portrayed.

Drag King: A **drag** performance wherein the character portrayed is a man.

Drag Queen: A **drag** performance wherein the character portrayed is a woman.

Dyke: A slur for lesbian women, typically masculine- or androgynous-presenting. Many 2SLGBTQIA+ women have reclaimed this term for personal use.

Enby: A shortened term for ‘nonbinary,’ but also considered a subset of nonbinary identities (Please note: not every nonbinary person identifies with the term ‘enby’). Enby is used in place of the letters ‘NB’ as this is already an abbreviation used for “Non-Black People of Colour.”

Facial Feminization Surgery: Gender-affirming surgery that focuses on making a person’s face appear more feminine. The process can include brow lifts, cheekbone implants, rhinoplasty, and lip fillers.

Faggot: A slur for gay men, as this word once referred to elderly women.

Femme: A feminine-presenting 2SLGBTQIA+ person.

Gaff: A gender-affirming garment made to conceal any bulge created by one’s testicles and penis, creating a smoother and flatter look at the groin. This can be a simple design of fabric held in place by an elastic waist band or can be stylized as underwear.

Gay: A person who experiences attraction to individuals of the same gender. This is also an umbrella term for anyone who is not straight.

Gender: A social construct historically used to group particular social norms, expectations, attitudes, interests, and/or activities into sex categories and social roles.

Gender Affirmation Surgery: Surgery designed to alter a person’s physical appearance to more closely align with their gender. This is an umbrella term for several different surgeries, including vaginoplasty, phalloplasty, and facial feminization surgery. **The outdated term for these procedures was ‘Gender/Sex Reassignment Surgery.’**

Gender Dysphoria: The negative experience of feeling one’s gender is not represented by the way their body looks or the way others perceive it to look.

Social Dysphoria is a type of dysphoria specific to social situations and assumptions made about gender, social roles, pronouns use, body language, etc.

Gender Creative: A person (typically a child) who does not conform to gender stereotypes and who finds creative ways to interweave qualities associated with various genders into their behaviour and self-presentation.

Genderfluid: A person whose gender identity moves between various genders at different times (as determined by the individual themselves).



Genderf*ck: A person who ‘doesn’t give a f*ck’ about gender, considered to be under the **nonbinary** umbrella.

Genderf*ck Drag: A drag performance wherein the character portrayed is **nonbinary**. Sometimes called ‘*genderfun drag*’ at child-friendly shows.

Gender Nonconforming: The act of deliberately refusing to conform to specific gender stereotypes.

Genderqueer: A person who does not subscribe to the gender binary or gender norms.

Greysexual: A person who is attracted to very few people, and who does not seem to have a ‘type’ when they do experience attraction. Considered to be under the **asexual** umbrella.

GRSM: Gender, romantic, and sexual minorities. Less-common term for ‘**2SLGBTQIA+**.’

Heteronormativity: The assumption that everyone is **straight**, and that being straight is ‘normal’ and/or superior to being **gay/lesbian/polysexual/etc**. This leads to the erasure and exclusion of non-straight identities.

Heterosexism: Prejudice attitudes and behaviour that grant preferential treatment to **straight** people, reinforcing the idea that being **straight** is superior to being **gay/lesbian/polysexual/etc**.

Heterosexual: The medical term for a person who experiences attraction to the ‘opposite’ gender. Interchangeable with ‘**straight**.’

Hermaphrodite: 1) A biological term for a multi-celled organism with fully functioning male and female reproductive systems; not at all applicable to humans. 2) A *slur* for **intersex** people.

Homosexual: 1) Attraction to someone of the same gender; now interchangeable with ‘**gay/lesbian**.’ 2) The medical term originally intended to describe being gay/lesbian as a mental illness.

Indigiqueer: A modern identity meant to encapsulate the intersectional facets of experience for those who are both Indigenous and a part of the **2SLGBTQIA+** community, particularly for individuals who reject the implied gender binary of “**2-Spirit**.”

Intersex: A person who is not biologically male or female, consisting of about 2% of the world’s population.

Lesbian: A woman who is attracted other women and transfeminine people.

MLM: A man-loving man, or a man who experiences attraction to other men. This term does not refer exclusively to gay men.



MOGAI: Minority orientation and gender identities. A term commonly rejected by the **2SLGBTQIA+** community as it has been known to exclude **monosexual** identities, and include ‘minor-attracted persons,’—a term meant to normalize pedophilia.

Monosexual: A person attracted to one gender (includes straight and gay/lesbian people).

Neopronouns: Pronouns developed by nonbinary individuals who do not use ‘they/them’ pronouns. These include but are not limited to ‘xe/xim/xir,’ ‘fae/fem/faer,’ and ‘person/per/pers.’

Nonbinary: A person whose gender exists outside of the binary ‘Man/Woman.’ Often considered an umbrella term. Please note not all nonbinary individuals identify as being trans.

Nongendered: Something that has not been otherwise gendered such as a washroom or clothing, similar to *unisex*.

Out: To identify to one person or many that the individual is a part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. **To out another person without expressed consent is considered harmful.**

Preferred: Indicating a preference. Well-meaning cisgender folks often put this word in front of trans-centered language such as pronouns, gender, or name. This portrays respecting important pieces of transgender identities as optional rather than mandatory, and gaslights transgender people by implying that these are ‘preferred’ rather than real.

Packer/STP: A prosthetic penis one can wear in their underwear as a gender-affirming garment. Some are designed with a funnel-like function allowing wearer to Stand To Pee.

Pansexual: A person who is attracted to people regardless of gender.

Polyamorous: A person who has several romantic and/or sexual partners at once, often with a ‘primary’ partner. This umbrella term can include polygamy (having multiple wives/girlfriends), polyandry (having multiple husbands/boyfriends), and open relationships.

Polygender: A person who identifies as more than one gender.

Polysexual: A person who is attracted to people of multiple genders (similar to bisexual).

Pronouns: A word that replaces a noun in a sentence, including: I, me, mine, myself, she, her, hers, herself, we, us, ours, ourselves, etc. **Please note it is never acceptable to use ‘it/its’ pronouns for a human being unless the person in question has designated these as their neopronouns.**



Queer: A reclaimed term for a person who identifies as anything other than straight and/or cisgender.

However, many people in the **2SLGBTQIA+** community still view the word as a *slur* and thus do not identify with the term.

Queer-platonic: A term used by the **asexual and aromantic** communities to mean a **queer** relationship that is more than friendly but not romantic or sexual in the typical sense.

Questioning: A person who is unsure of their sexual or gender identity.

Sapphic: A woman who is attracted to other women. This term does not refer exclusively to lesbian women.

Sex: 1) The biological designation of a person based on their chromosomes, genitals, gonads, hormones, and secondary sex characteristics. 2) A social construct assigned to an individual at birth based on the shape of their genitals alone. 3) A verb for participating in any sexual activity.

Squish: A platonic crush; the term is most often used by the **asexual** community.

Straight: A person who experiences attraction to the 'opposite' gender.

Stud: A masculine-presenting **2SLGBTQIA+** woman of colour, typically a Black woman.

TERFs: Trans-exclusionary radical feminists. These are feminists who *do not* consider transgender women to be women. Also referred to as **FARTs** (Feminism-appropriating radical transphobes).

Top Surgery: Gender-affirming surgery that focusses on the chest area; typically refers to the removal of breast tissue but can sometimes refer to breast augmentation as well.

Transgender: A person who does not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. **Transgender**, **Trans** or **Trans*** can be umbrella terms for anyone who is of a gender minority. While 'Trans' already includes anyone under this umbrella, '**Trans***' was meant to be more intentionally inclusive of nonbinary individuals.

Transfeminine/Transfemme: A (typically nonbinary) transgender person who identifies with femininity.

Transmasculine/Transmasc: A (typically nonbinary) transgender person who identifies with masculinity.

Tranny: A *slur* for transgender people.

Transexual: An outdated term for being **transgender**. This term is still used by some older members of the **2SLGBTQIA+** community as this was the language they grew to identify with.



Trans Status: Formally addressing whether a person is **transgender**. Whether a transgender person chooses to disclose their trans status to another person has no effect on whether they are trans or not. **Disclosing another person's trans status without expressed consent is considered harmful.**

Transvestite: An outdated term for a person who dresses in clothes typically associated with different genders, similar to **crossdressing**. It does not refer to a transgender person.

Tucking: A technique whereby a person conceals the bulge created by their penis and testicles.

Voice Feminization Therapy: Process of training a transfeminine person on how to speak more traditionally feminine, both through vocalizations and body language. Also known as **Voice Training**.

Voice Feminization Surgery: A surgery done on the vocal chords to raise the pitch of one's voice.

WLW: A Woman-loving woman, or woman who experiences attraction to other women. This term does not refer exclusively to lesbian women.

Woman: A person who identifies as being a woman, including transgender women.

Womxn (pronounced like 'women'): A plural of 'woman' meant to be more inclusive, intersectional, and that acknowledges prejudice, discrimination, and institutional barriers faced by all identities that exist in opposition to misogyny such as **women**, and **transfeminine genderqueer** and **nonbinary** individuals. **This term has recently received criticism for its roots in the word 'Womyn,' a term historically used to exclude trans women from women-centred spaces.**

Unisex: Something designed to be used by anybody regardless of biological or assigned sex.