

National Youth Advocacy Coalition

Safe Spaces Training Module

LGBTQ Terms Defined

Biological Sex

- Female: A person with the biological characteristics that are categorized as female, usually assigned at birth
- Male: A person with the biological characteristics that are categorized as male, usually assigned at birth
- Intersex: A person born with a “congenital anomaly of the reproductive and sexual system; with chromosomes external genitalia, and/or internal reproductive systems that are not considered ‘standard’ for either male or female.”
- Transsexual: A person who is at any stage of physically transitioning their biological body from one sex to another, from taking hormones to reconstructive surgery.

Gender Presentation

- Feminine: A person who presents their gender with traits that are associated with being a woman.
- Masculine: A person who presents their gender with traits that are associated with being a man.
- Androgynous: A person who presents their gender with a combination of feminine and masculine traits and/or presents their gender without an overwhelming sense of masculinity or femininity.

Gender Identity

- Woman: The knowledge of yourself as a woman – may or may not match your gender presentation or biological sex
- Man: The knowledge of yourself as a man – may or may not match your gender presentation or biological sex.
- Transgender: An umbrella term used to define someone who (1) may not identify either “man” or “woman,” and may be identify them selves on a gender spectrum instead of binary and/or (2) may or may not be transitioning from one gender identity to another.
- Genderqueer: A term used to define a radical and/or non-conforming gender identity. A person who combines gender presentations, is androgynous, or denies gender identity altogether.

Sexuality

- Lesbian: A woman who is emotionally, physically and/or spiritually attracted to other women.
- Gay: A man who is emotionally, physically and/or spiritually attracted to other men OR an umbrella term for any person with same-sex attraction
- Bisexual: A person who is attracted to men and women on the dual gender spectrum.
- Pansexual: A person who is attracted to any person regardless of the other person’s gender presentation and/or gender identity, acknowledges a spectrum of gender. Also understood as “fluid.”

All Categories

- Questioning: Someone who is not sure about their sexuality, sexual identity, and/or gender identity.
- Queer: (1) A reclaimed term meant to describe someone who is not heterosexual, (2) Interchangeable with “LGBTQ,” (3) a political term describing someone who is purposefully non-normative.