

Transgender Glossary

Affirmed Female	Someone who identifies as female but was not labeled female at birth
Affirmed Male	Someone who identifies as male but was not labeled male at birth
Anatomical Sex	The physical structure of one's body that usually makes a person Male or female. It is often used to refer to the sex that someone was labeled at birth, since people are usually labeled male or female due to the appearance of their genitalia
Androgynous	An androgynous person has a gender expression and/or identity that blend the stereotypically male and female traits.
Asexual	An asexual person does not have romantic attractions toward people of any sex or gender.
Bigender	People who identify as both men and women, neither or somewhere in between the classical two sexes.
Bottom Surgery / Lower Surgery	Includes any number of genital surgeries that a transgender individual might undergo
Chest Surgery/ Top Surgery	Refers to mammoplasty, but usually refers to the female to male procedure
Cisgender	People who are cisgender are not transgender; their gender identity matches up with the sex they were assigned at birth. The vast majority of people are cisgender.
Crossdresser	A person who, on occasion, wears clothing associated with another sex, but does not necessarily desire to change his or her sex. Many cross dressers identify as heterosexual but can have any sexual orientation.
Disorders of Sex Development (DSD)	Any of several congenital conditions in which the development of chromosomal, gonadal or anatomical sex is atypical. A DSD may or may not manifest itself externally (e.g., ambiguous genitalia). In some cases people do not know they have a DSD until they seek medical care, sometimes for an unrelated condition. Some people strongly object to the "disorder" label and instead view these conditions as a matter of diversity, preferring the terms "intersex" and "intersexuality".
Drag King / Drag Queen	A performer who wears the clothing associated with another sex, often involving the presentation of exaggerated, stereotypical gender characteristics. The performance of gender by drag queens (males in drag) or drag kings (females in drag) may be art, entertainment and/or parody. Drag Kings / Drag Queens can also be referred to as Male / Female Impersonators.
Female to Male / FTM (F ₂ M) / Transman	Adjectives to describe individuals assigned female at birth who are changing or have changed their body and/or gender role from birth assigned female to a more masculine body and role.

Gender	The “behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one’s sex”(Webster). However, gender may include behavior may include the behavioral, cultural or psychological traits associated with the sex one is assigned at birth (for someone who is not transgender), the opposite sex (for someone who is transgender) or anywhere in between.
Gender Affirming Surgery	Any one of many surgeries that may affirm a transgender individual’s gender identity. This can include genital, facial reconstruction, chest or other surgeries. Gender-affirming surgery may be referred to as Gender Reassignment Surgery (GRS). It is also referred to a <i>sex change</i> , though this is an outdated and largely incorrect term.
Gender Binary	The notion that there are only two sexes and two genders: male and female.
Gender Dysphoria	The distress that is caused by a discrepancy between a person’s gender identity and that person’s sex assigned at birth (and the associated gender role and/or primary and secondary sex characteristics).
Gender Expression	The external representation of one’s gender identity, usually expressed through feminine or masculine behaviors and signals such as clothing, hair, movement, voice or body characteristics.
Gender Identity	One’s internal sense of who one is; being a man or a woman, boy or a girl, or between or beyond these genders.
Gender Identity Disorder	Formal diagnosis set forth by <i>the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text Rev. (DSM IV-TR)</i> (American Psychiatric Association, 2000). Gender identity disorder is characterized by a strong and persistent cross gender identification and a persistent discomfort with one’s sex or sense of inappropriateness in the gender role of that sex, causing clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.
Gender-nonconforming	Adjective to describe individuals whose gender identity, role or expression differ from what is normative for their assigned sex in a given culture and historical period.
Genderqueer	Identity label that may be used by individuals whose gender identity and/or role does not conform to a binary understanding of gender as limited to the categories of man or woman, male or female. It is a term that should only be used if the person self-identifies as such.
Gender Role or Expression	Characteristics in personality, appearance and behavior that in a given culture and historical period are designated as masculine or feminine (that is, more typical of the male or female social role). While most individuals present clearly in masculine or feminine

	gender roles, some people present in an alternative gender role such as genderqueer or transgender. All people tend to incorporate both masculine and feminine characteristics in their gender expression in varying ways to varying degrees.
Hormone Therapy	Administration of hormones and hormonal agents to develop characteristics of a different gender or to block the development of unwanted gender characteristics. Hormone therapy is part of many people's gender transitions and is safest when prescribed and monitored by a health care professional.
Intersex	A person born with some atypical biological characteristics that are both male and female. This can manifest itself in ambiguous genitalia, development of secondary characteristics that are inconsistent with genitalia, atypical chromosomes (XXY or XYY, for example), or in many other ways that are different from the classic development of a male or female. Intersex people used to be called "hermaphrodites", which is now considered a pejorative term. The term "disorders of sex development" is favored by some individuals but strongly opposed by others.
Internalized Transphobia	Discomfort with one's own transgender feelings or identity as a result of internalizing society's normative gender expectations.
Male to Female, MTF (M ₂ F), Transwoman	Adjective to describe individuals assigned male at birth who are changing or have changed their body and/or gender role from birth assigned male to more feminine body or role.
Natal Sex	The sex that someone was labeled with at birth, usually based on appearance of external genitalia.
Non-Op, Pre-Op, Post-Op	Terms used to identify a transgender person's surgical status. Use of these terms is often considered insulting and offensive. Surgical status is almost never relevant information for anyone except a transgender person's medical providers.
Pansexual	A person who is attracted to people of any and all genders.
Pass	A transgender individual who can pass is perceived to be the gender that he or she feels that he or she is. For example, a female - to- male transgender individual who passes is perceived by the public as being just like any other man.
Sex	Either of two major forms of individuals that occur in many species and that are distinguished respectively as male or female especially on the basis of their reproductive organs and structures. But sex can also mean "intersex" or someone with a disorder of sex development who is not categorized as specifically male or female. Sex is not fully explained by its dictionary definition. According to some people, organs and structures do not dictate sex just as they do not dictate gender. For example, if someone asked a female - to - male transgender person what sex he was, he would likely

	respond male, regardless of the fact that he might still have typically female organs. So, if someone feels that he is a man (gender), he would likely also consider himself male (sex).
Stealth	A term for a transgender individual who lives as the gender that he or she transitioned to and does not reveal his or her transgender status.
Top Surgery	Surgery that a female to male may undergo to have a male looking chest. Specifically, double incision mastectomy and periareolar.
Transgender	An adjective to describe a diverse group of individuals who cross or transcend culturally defined categories of gender. The gender identity of transgender people differs in varying degrees from the sex they were assigned at birth.
Transition	The period of time when individuals change from the gender role associated with their sex assigned at birth to a different gender role. For many people this involves learning how to live socially in another gender role, for others this means finding a gender role and/or expression that are most comfortable for them. Transition may or may not include feminization or masculinization of the body through hormones or other medical procedures. The nature and duration of transition are variable and individualized.
Transphobia	The irrational fear of those who challenge gender stereotypes, often expressed as discrimination, harassment and violence.
Transsexual	An adjective (often applied by the medical profession) to describe individuals who seek to change or have changed their primary and/or secondary sex characteristics through feminizing or masculinizing medical interventions (hormones and/or surgery) typically accompanied by a permanent change in gender role.
Transvestite	A term that should no longer be used. The correct term is “cross dresser”.
	<p><i>Transgender 101 A Simple Guide to a Complex Issue; Teich, Nicolas M. Columbia University Press 2012</i></p> <p><i>Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Counseling (2009) Competencies for counseling with transgender clients, Alexandria VA.</i></p> <p><i>World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming People, 7th Edition</i></p>