



LGBTQIPA+ Frequently Asked Questions

What do the letters in LGBTQIPA stand for?

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Pansexual and Asexual.

What does it mean to be lesbian or gay?

An emotional, romantic, and sexual attraction to those of the same sex.

What does it mean to be bisexual?

An emotional, romantic, and sexual attraction to either sex.

What does transgender mean?

Transgender refers to people whose gender identity differs from the social expectations for their biological sex.

What does queer mean?

This is an umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities who are not heterosexual or not cisgender (when your gender identity matches your biological sex). Queer was once used derogatively against those with same-sex desires in the early 1900s - but in the late 1980s, queer scholars and activists began to reclaim the word to create community, and emphasize an identity distinct from the gay identity.

What does it mean to be intersex?

Intersex refers to a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. Being intersex is about as common as being born with red hair.

What does it mean to be pansexual?

Pansexual is a term for a person who is attracted to all gender identities, or attracted to people regardless of gender.

What does it mean to be asexual?

Asexual refers to people who are not interested in or do not desire sexual activity, either within or outside of a relationship. Asexuality is not the same as celibacy, which is the willful decision to not act on sexual feelings. Asexuals, while not desiring physical relationships, are quite capable of romantic ties to others.

Is sexual orientation a choice?

No. People cannot choose or change their sexual orientation. Sexual Orientation is biologically determined.

Can homosexuality be “cured”?

Professional, scientific, and medical organizations condemn “reparative” or “conversion” therapy as ineffective and psychologically harmful. The practice is currently illegal in 9 states, with additional pending bills (as of 2017) to ban conversion therapy in 13 more.

Is being gay normal?

Homosexuality is perfectly normal. It is a complete package of feelings and relationships that make up a natural and satisfying identity. Homosexuality has existed throughout humanity's existence. Anthropologists report that lesbians and gay men have been and are a part of every culture. Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are part of every socioeconomic class, educational level, and race/ethnicity. In fact, homosexuality occurs in almost every species.