IUP LGBTQIA Support Terminology 1

Last Revised 15 September 2022

Indiana University of Pennsylvania: LGBTQIA Support Terminology
Abrosexual/romantic ± ³VRPHRQH ZKR H[SHULHQFHV D IOXLG DQG/RU FKDQJLQJ
RULHQWDWLRQ´ (Mardell, 2016, p. 6).
Agender ± ³Someone who has a gender identity that is not male or female or who
GRHV QRW KDYH D GHILQHG JHQGHU LGHQWLW\´ (Madrone, 2018, p. 233).
Ally ± ³VRPHRQH ZKR GRHV QRW LGHQWLI\ DV /GB74IA+, EXW DFWLYHO\ VXSSRUWV WKH
FRPPXQLW\´ (Mardell, 2016, p. 6).
Androgyne ± ³3eople who are androgynous « or gender blenders can merge gender
expression in many different ways to represent either a combination of the binary
genders or neither. Someone who is androgynous often does not present
themselves in appearance as either binar\ JHQGHU´ (0DGURQH, 2018, p. 233).
Aromantic (aro) ± DQ XPEUHOOD WHUP IRU SHRSOH ³ZKR H[SHULHQFHV OLWWOH RU QR
URPDQWLF DWWUDFWLRQ´ (Madrone, 2018, p. 234; Mardell, 2016, p. 7).
Asexual (ace) ± a spectrum in which a person experiences little or no sexual
attraction or desire

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Closeted ± ³D SHUVRQ ZKo is closeted (or µin the closet¶) does not disclose their
orientation or their sexual or gender identity. People may also be partially closeted²
RQO\ FRPLQJ RXW WR D VHOHFW IHZ´ (Madrone, 2018, p. 235).
Coming out ± ³GLVFORVLQJ RQH¶V VH[XDO RULHQWDWLRQ RU JHQGHU LGHQWLW\ WR RWKHUV´
(Madrone, 2018, p. 235).
Demigender ± ³VRPHRQH ZKR KDV/H[SHULHQFHV D SDUWLDO FRQQHFWLRQ WR RQH RU PRUH
JHQGHUV´ (Mardell, 2016, p. 8).
Demisexual/romantic ± ³D SHUVRQ ZKR RQO\ H[SHULHQFHV DWWUDFWLRQ WR SHRSOH ZLWK
ZKRP WKH\ KDYH IRUPHG D VWURQJ HPRWLRQDO ERQG´ (Mardell, 2016, p. 8).

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Gender dysphoria ± ³D WHUP IRU WKH SDLQ, DQ[LHW\, DQG FRQIXVLRQ WKDW FDQ UHVXOW

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Intersex ± when chromosomes, hormones, or sex organs differ from the two
patterns of male or female.
Lesbian ± ³D ZRPDQ ZKR LV HPRWLRQDOO\, URPDQWLFDOO\, DQG VH[XDOO\ DWWUDFWHG WR
RWKHU ZRPHQ´ (Madrone, 2018, p. 239). Some individuals who are simply feminine

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term has been reclaimed by many LGBTQ people who use it as an expression of
pride. Some LGBTQ people prefer to identify as queer, rather than lesbian, gay,
ELVH[XDO, RU WUDQVJHQGHU´ (Madrone, 2018, p. 241). Furthermore, queer can be used
as a general sexuality label if someone prefers to have less of a definitive label.
Questioning ± ³EHLQJ XQFHUWDLQ RI RQH¶V VH[XDO RULHQWDWLRQ RU JHQGHU LGHQWLW\ DQG
EHLQJ LQ D VSDFH RU PLQGVHW RI H[SORUDWLRQ´ (Madrone, 2018, p. 241).
Sex ± biological and physiological characteristics such as chromosomes, hormones,
and genitalia assigned at birth and used as a medical label.
Sexual orientation ± ³D WHUP XVHG WR GHVFULEH ZKR VRPHRQH LV HPRWLRQDOO\,
URPDQWLFDOO\, DQG VH[XDOO\ DWWUDFWHG WR´ (Madrone, 2018, p. 242).
Transfeminine ± ³D WHUP XVHG WR GHVFULEH VRPHRQH«who has a predominantly
feminine gender DQG/RU H[SUHVVHV WKHPVHOYHV LQ D ZD\ WKH\ GHVFULEH DV IHPLQLQH´
(Mardell, 2016, 14).
Transgender ± an umbrella term for people whose gender identity does not match
the gender they were assigned at birth.
Transitioning ± ³D FRPSOH[, PXOWL-
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Trigender ± ³VRPHRQH ZKR KDV/H[SHULHQFHV WKUHH JHQGHUV´ (Mardell, 2016, p. 14).
Two-Spirit ± ³A WHUP UHIHUULQJ WR 1DWLYH APHULFDQV (DQG XVHG E\ LQGLJHQRXV SHRSOH
in some other countries) whose spirits were a blend of genders. Today, some Native
communities have reclaimed this term as an alternative to labels such as lesbian,
JD\, RU WUDQVJHQGHU´ (0DGURQH

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