



Trans Youth Equality Foundation

Glossary

The broad gender spectrum challenges us to sensitively define our labels.

Gender- The state of being male, female, or however one defines themselves on the gender spectrum.

Sex- The biological and physiological characteristics of male and female.

Transgender- A person whose identity does not conform to conventional notions of the sexes male and female.

Transsexual- A person who emotionally and psychologically feels they need to be as the opposite sex. Most commonly defined as someone who medically changes themselves to the gender they identify as. Prior to medical transition, a transsexual person experiences dysphoria.

Dysphoria- A state of feeling unhappy; discomfort with oneself emotionally, mentally, or physically. In terms of gender, someone with dysphoria experiences significant discontent with their sex assigned at birth.

Gender Dysphoria- The formal diagnosis used by psychologists and other providers for people with significant body dysphoria.

Gender Non-Conforming- The behavior or expression of not conforming to societies definitions of male and female.

Genderqueer- A person who identifies as neither, both, or a combination of male and female genders.

Genderfluid- A person whose gender is fluid, meaning their gender can shift and change from various points on the spectrum, they may feel as though their gender is in a constant state of motion and readily shifting to their current state.

Bigender- A person who identifies with both masculine, and feminine gender identities. They may feel they shift between a distinct feminine identity and masculine identity, or as though their gender identity encompasses a combination of their feminine and masculine identities.

Agender- A person whose gender identity is non-binary, or who may feel as though they are genderless or do not have a gender.

Nonbinary- A person who feels their gender identity does not fall within the accepted gender binary of male or female, and may feel as though they are both, neither, or a mixture of the two.

Demigirl/Demiboy- A demi girl is a person who feels their gender identity partially identifies with a feminine identity, but is not wholly binary, regardless of their assigned gender. Likewise a demiboy is a person who feels their gender identity partially identifies with a masculine identity but is not wholly binary. Like a demigirl, a demiboy may identify this way regardless of their assigned gender.

Neutrois- Neutrois is another identity that falls under the umbrella of gender neutral or transgender identities. In most cases neutrois can be understood as interchangeable for gender neutral, however there is not one singular definition for neutrois, as everyone experiences gender in a different way.

Androgynous- Possessing both masculine and feminine traits. Presenting in a way that appears not to entirely all masculine, or entirely all feminine. This can be in regards to fashion, gender, physical characteristics, etc.

Sexuality- A persons sexual preference or orientation. For example gay, straight, bisexual, pansexual, transsexual, and etc.

Cisgender- A person who is not under the transgender umbrella.

Courtesy of Trans Youth Equality Foundation