

GENDER & SEXUALITY: KEY TERMS

- **binary:** the classification of gender into two distinct and opposite identities – man and woman.
- **cisgender:** when a person's biological sex assigned at birth and their gender identity are the same.
- **empowerment:** the process of gaining freedom and power to control one's life and claim one's rights.
- **feminism:** the theory of equality between the sexes.
- **gender:** a person's identity as male, female, or somewhere in between.
- **gender inequality:** social process by which people are treated differently on the basis of their gender.
- **heterosexism:** a system with privileges heterosexuals over LGBTQ individuals.
- **homophobia:** dislike, prejudice against, or negative feelings toward homosexuality or those perceived as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (associated words include: biphobia, transphobia, etc.).
- **LGBTQIA+:** acronym meaning Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual (and more).
- **misogyny:** prejudice against women.
- **oppression:** systematic subjugation of one social group by a more powerful group.
- **patriarchy:** a social system which favors males and in which men hold most of the power.
- **sex:** biological differences between males and females (e.g. their anatomy or chromosomes).
- **sexual orientation:** a person's identity in relation to the gender that they are attracted to/love (e.g. heterosexual/straight, homosexual/gay, etc.).
- **transgender:** an adjective meaning that someone's gender identity does not align or not only align with the sex they were assigned at birth.
- **Two-Spirit:** umbrella term for various gender identities and expressions of Native American individuals. Two-Spirit individuals are said to have both male and female spirits inside of them. The term should not be used to describe people who are not of Indigenous heritage.