

Asexuality (sometimes referred to as non-sexuality): Asexuality is the lack of sexual attraction to others, or a low interest in sexual activity. Some people consider asexuality to be their sexual orientation, and others describe it as an absence of sexual orientation.

Bisexuality: A romantic attraction, sexual attraction, or sexual behavior toward both males and females, or to more than one gender.

Gay: Usually, but not always, refers to men who have emotional, physical, spiritual, and sexual attraction to other men. Also used as an umbrella term for the LGBTQ community.

Lesbian: A woman who has emotional, physical, spiritual, and sexual attractions to other women.

Multisexual: A person that identifies as someone who is attracted to more than one gender; an umbrella term that can encompass identities including bisexual, omnisexual, and pansexual.

Omnisexual: Characterized by the potential for aesthetic attraction, romantic love, or sexual desire for people of all gender identities. Omnisexual persons consider gender a factor in their attraction, but still identify as being attracted to all genders.

Pansexual: Characterized by the potential for aesthetic attraction, romantic love, or sexual desire for people, regardless of their gender identity or biological sex. Pansexual persons do not consider gender a factor in their attraction.

Questioning: The process of exploring one's own sexual or gender identity, including but not limited to questioning one's upbringing, expectations from others (family, friends, church, etc.), and inner motivation.

Queer: Derogatory slang term used to identify LGBTQ people. This term has been embraced and reinvented as a positive, proud, political identifier when used by some LGBTQ people among and about themselves. Sometimes "queer" is used by activists and scholars as an umbrella term to refer to LGBTQ people (i.e. referring to "queer people" or "queer women," etc. rather than "queers," which has a more derogatory connotation.).

Sexual Orientation: The direction of one's sexual interest toward members of the same, different, or a variety of genders. It is a direction based on whom a person is emotionally, physically, romantically, and/or sexually attracted. It is not a matter of "choice." It is not to be confused with sexual preference (what a person likes to do sexually), which implies making a choice. Sexual orientation is not a choice, but you can choose when and where to share your sexual orientation with others (i.e. coming out is a choice, but sexuality or sexual orientation is not a choice and cannot be changed).