

The Transgender Umbrella

The Basics

sex: one's physical aspects (chromosomes, hormones, genitalia)

gender: one's psychological and sociological aspects

gender identity: one's psychological sense of self; one's identity; who someone is intrinsically

gender presentation or **gender expression:** how one presents oneself in society

gender role: the social role someone takes in society

orientation: who someone is attracted to; can be declared relative to one's gender (not sex), can be declared simply as the partner's gender, or can be completely unrelated to gender
all of these attributes are independent of each other (there are straight transwomen, lesbian transwomen, straight transmen, gay transmen, and everything in-between)

Not the Transgender Umbrella:

cisgender: describes one whose gender identity matches their sex at birth, and who also fits into the gender binary

cisperson/cissexual: one who is cisgendered

intersex: sometimes included under the transgender umbrella, but more often not; describes any physical condition that is not distinctly "male" or distinctly "female"; can be unusual chromosome patterns (single X, XXY, XYY, XXX, and other patterns are possible), hormone imbalances, ambiguous genitalia, etc. (there are many intersex conditions, and at least one occurs in every 1 in 100 births; 1% of the population or ~70 million!)

Those who do not fit into traditional binary expectations may be referred to as "gender nonconforming." This may include variations of gender expression, but not identity.

transgender: adj. 1. describes one whose gender identity does not match their sex at birth; 2. more generally, can describe one whose existence challenges the idea that gender exists only as two mutually exclusive categories of male and female (the **gender binary**)

transperson: n. one who is transgendered

transsexual: one whose sex at birth is "opposite" their gender identity; i.e. one who was born with male parts but is actually female (**MTF** or **male-to-female**; a **transwoman**) or one who was born with female parts but is actually male (**FTM** or **female-to-male**; a **transman**)

crossdresser: one who wears clothing intended for the "opposite" gender for personal comfort or relaxation

transvestite: usually an offensive term, especially when used incorrectly; one who wears clothing intended for the "opposite" gender for sexual satisfaction

drag queen or **drag king:** one who wears clothing intended for the "opposite" gender for the entertainment of others

bigender: one whose gender identity is both male and female at the same time; may exhibit aspects of both

androgyne: one whose gender identity is somewhere in-between male and female; may exhibit some aspects of one and some of the other

agender: one who has no gender at all

genderqueer: one whose gender identity is something completely different from male or female; may also include the other gender identities on this side of the umbrella

third and **fourth:** two genders that exist outside of "male" and "female"; like male and female, they cannot really be defined as anything other than themselves

gender fluid: one whose gender identity can change (for most people, including most transpeople, gender identity cannot be changed; however, some people can change their gender identity)