

101: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION
Trans Affirming	Unequivocal respect for and support of a person's gender identity and their related experiences.
Sex	A person's unique combination of genitals, sex chromosomes, hormones, and reproductive organs.
Endosex	A term that describes sex traits that fall inside of the strictly male and female combinations.
Intersex	An umbrella term for variations in combinations of sex characteristics that fall outside of the strictly male and female combinations.
Sex Assigned at Birth	The decision of which sex marker is placed on someone's birth certificate (if they have one) at the time of birth.
Gender	Gender is a concept comprising culture, identity, social norms, and expression/sense of self.
Gender Identity	How a person experiences gender in their heart, mind, body, spirit and soul.
Cisgender	Describes a person whose sex assigned at birth aligns with their gender identity.
Transgender	Describes a person whose sex assigned at birth does not align with their gender identity.
The Gender Binary	The classification of gender into two distinct categories: men and women.

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Non-Binary	An umbrella term describing gender identities that exist beyond the gender binary; a category of people who don't identify exclusively as men or women.
Gender Expression	A person's appearance, behavior, and/or mannerisms that are associated with gender in a particular cultural, geographical, and/or historical context.
Gender Non-Conforming	A person whose gender expression does not fall in line with stereotypical ideas of masculinity or femininity. (Also used as an identity that falls under the non-binary umbrella.)
Sexual Orientation	An umbrella term that describes who someone might be attracted to, or want to be in various kind of relationships with (i.e., romantic, sexual, physical etc), if someone experiences attraction or wants to be in relationships.

A note on Transitions: Not all transgender or non-binary people want to socially, legally, or medically transition and many people experience barriers (financial, safety, lack of resources, etc.) when attempting to affirm themselves socially, medically, or legally. Transitions of any form should not be expected or required when affirming people's experiences.

Social Transition	A transgender or non-binary person's process of sharing their identity with others. May include shifting presentation, using a new name and/or affirming pronouns.
Medical Transition	The process of using medical assistance to work towards aligning one's body with their internal sense of self and/or identity. May include hormones, surgical procedures, or non-surgical procedures.
Legal Transition	The process of legally changing one's documents to better reflect their affirming name and gender marker. May include birth certificate, drivers license, passport, and other official documents.