

Non-Comprehensive Terminology

- Transgender: An umbrella term encompassing a wide variety of people who feel that the gender assigned to them at birth is inaccurate or incomplete.
- Transition: The process of changing one's gender identity and/or physical embodiment, which may or may not include medical intervention, wardrobe choices, or a name change. For some the process has a distinct "end" point, for others it is an ongoing process of self-discovery and transformation.
- Cisgender/Cissexual: Someone who feels that the gender assigned to them at birth is relatively accurate and complete. The Greek prefix "cis" literally means "on the same side of," or "not trans."
- Male-assigned: When a person's body is designated "male" at birth. Is used instead of (and is preferable to) the more common "biologically male" or "male-born."
- Female-assigned: When a person's body is designated "female" at birth. Is used instead of (and is preferable to) the more common "biologically female" or "female-born."
- Non-binary gender: An umbrella term encompassing a wide variety of people who do not feel comfortable identifying entirely or exclusively as male or female, but rather prefer a fluid identity, a combination of both, no gender at all, or something else entirely. Many use the word "genderqueer," and there are a wide variety of non-binary pronouns including "they/them/their" and "ze/hir." Non-binary people may also choose to transition physically in various ways.
- Gender non-conforming (GNC): A shorthand used for people who may or may not identify as trans, but who's behaviors are typically considered cross-gender. While no one is completely gender-conforming, people generally referred to as GNC tend to be consistent and comfortable with cross-gender expression, and are uncomfortable conforming to their typical gender roles. A term recently in vogue is "gender-independent."
- Intersex: An umbrella term for a variety of medical conditions that may result in genitalia that aren't easily classified, or a hormonal or genetic makeup typically seen in the "opposite" assigned sex. Formerly referred to as "hermaphrodites," that term is considered both inaccurate and offensive. Some intersex people identify as trans, and some trans people (arguably erroneously) identify as intersex.