

What does LGBTQ2AI+ stand for?

L – Lesbian: A woman who is attracted to other women.

G – Gay: A man or woman who is attracted to someone of the same sex or gender.

B – Bisexual: A man or woman who is attracted to both men and women.

T – Transgender: A person whose gender does not match their birth sex.

- Gender, like race, is a social construction, whereas sex is biological, based on chromosomes and genitalia.

- **MtF:** A person who is assigned male at birth but whose gender identity is female.

- **FtM:** A person who is assigned female at birth but whose gender identity is male.

Q – Queer and Questioning: Queer is the umbrella term that encompasses everyone who does not fit in the hetero-normative or gender binary. People who are questioning are questioning either their sexuality or their gender identity.

2 - Two-Spirit or 2S: A term used within some Indigenous communities, encompassing sexual, gender, cultural, and/or spiritual identity. This umbrella term was created in the English language to reflect complex Indigenous understandings of gender and sexuality and the long history of sexual and gender diversity in Indigenous cultures. This term may refer to cross, multiple, and/or non-binary gender roles; non-heterosexual identities; and a range of cultural identities, roles, and practices embodied by Two Spirit peoples. (definition used with permission from Battered Women's Support Services)

A – Asexual: A person who identifies as asexual does not desire sex in relationships.

I – Intersex: Someone who is intersex has unique sex development. These are people born with a different chromosome makeup than female (XX) or male (XY). The most commonly known type of intersexuality is hermaphroditism. A hermaphrodite is someone who has both male and female reproductive organs.

Other Groups under the Umbrella

Here is a good reference for many other terms used under the sexual orientation broolly.

<https://www.healthline.com/health/different-types-of-sexuality#q-z>

Sexual & Sensual Minorities

A sexual minority is a group whose sexual identity, orientation, or practices differ from the majority of the surrounding society. It often refers to lesbian, gay, and bisexuals but can also refer to transgender, genderqueer (non-binary), or intersex individuals. The term is primarily used to refer to lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals, but can also be used in reference to people who practice alternative lifestyles such as BDSM/Kink and Polyamory.*

* See also my Alternative Lifestyles FAQ

Some LGBT people object to using the term sexual minorities in relation to themselves and prefer the term LGBTQ. The reasons for these objections may vary. For example, some LGBTQ people feel that the term sexual minority needlessly reminds them about discrimination and about being a minority. They want to be not a distinct minority but an integral and respectable part of society.

Some other LGBTQ people dislike the term for being too inclusive, including swingers, polyamorists, BDSM people, and other perceived "sexual strangers". These LGBTQ people want to make a larger distance between these sexual practices and bisexuality/homosexuality/transgender.

Some transgender people dislike the term sexual minority for yet another reason. They argue that the phenomenon of transsexuality or transgender has nothing to do with sex, sexual practices, or sexual orientation but it relates to gender, gender dysphoria, and gender-variant feelings and behavior. Thus, they feel it is incorrect to classify them as a "sexual minority", when, in fact, they are a gender-variant minority.

Articles and studies linking homophobia to actually being gay

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8772014>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2126957/Homophobes-attracted-sex-study-finds.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/29/opinion/sunday/homophobic-maybe-youre-gay.html>

<https://www.indy100.com/article/homophobia-gay-homosexual-closet-science-self-loathing-study-data-50-years-decriminalisation-7788016>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/04/120406234458.htm>

https://www.psychologytoday.com/files/u47/Henry_et_al.pdf

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