

QUEER

LGBTQ+  
GLOSSARY

# GLOSSARY

## ON GENDER IDENTITY

- **Butch / Fem:** Terms often used to describe the appearance of lesbian women. "butch" characterizes a lesbian woman who has adopted stereotypically "manly" norms whether it is physically, clothe-wise or attitude-wise. on the contrary, "fem" describes a lesbian woman that adopts clothes and manners socially defined as "feminine".
- **Cisgender:** people whose identity is consistent with their assigned sex and gender.
- **Effeminate:** having characteristics and ways of behaving traditionally associated with women and regarded as inappropriate for a man ; a homosexual stereotype.
- **Gender Expression/appearance:** the way a person expresses their gender in their behavior and physical appearance: clothing, hairstyle, makeup, body language... Gender identity and gender appearance do not necessarily coincide.
- **Gender :** all the norms, socially defined, of appearance, behavior or social role, that characterize an identity, traditionally understood in a binary way either as "masculine" or "feminine". These norms are defined and evolve in the social sphere.
- **Gender identity:** the intimate and personal experience of gender lived by each individual. The gender felt, that defines the identity of a being, can differ from the one assigned to them (at birth by a medical team, or more generally, by society, throughout life).

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- **Gender transition:** the process of social, physical and administrative change through which a person is granted the social presentation corresponding to their gender identity, with the objective of recognition by society and by law.
- **Intersex:** characterizes a person born with sexual attributes (genital, hormonal, gonadal or chromosomic) that do not correspond to the binary definitions typically male or typically female, whether these characteristics are visible at birth or appearing later in life.
- **NON-Binary:** characterizes someone that does not perceive themselves in at least one of the binary systems such as man-woman, masculine-feminine, homosexual-heterosexual. Non-binary people can reject these categories, contest their rigid or exclusive aspect, transcend the idea of norm, or recognize themselves in different categories.
- **Sex:** all the markers, whether they are biological (the genitals for instance), physiological, genetic, ... Sex is generally described in binary terms ("male" / "female") but sexual characteristics at birth cannot always allow the determination of the sex univocally: it is the case for intersex and intersexual people.
- **Straight "acting":** someone who is not heterosexual but does not let any sign show they are a member of the LGBTQ+ community.
- **TRANS Person:** someone whose assigned gender does not correspond to their gender identity.

# GLOSSARY

## ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

- **Asexuality:** the sexual orientation of people that feel no sexual attraction.
- **Bisexuality:** the sexual orientation of people whose attraction is towards people of both sexes.
- **Heterosexuality:** the sexual orientation of people whose attraction is towards people of the opposite sex. We can use to define a heterosexual person both adjectives "heterosexual" and "straight".
- **Homosexuality:** the sexual orientation of people whose attraction is towards people of the same sex
- **Pansexuality:** the sexual orientation of people whose attraction "is towards people regardless of their sex or gender".
- **Sexual Orientation:** an emotional, physical and/or sexual attraction towards individuals

# GLOSSARY

## ON LGBTPHOBIAS

- **Biphobia:** all the violence and discrimination where the victims are bisexual people or identified as such
- **Gayphobia:** a form of homophobia directed towards men. Regroups all the attitudes or demonstrations of despise, rejection, hatred or violence, moral or physical, aiming specifically at men (whether they are gay, bisexual or heterosexual) because of their real or supposed homosexuality.
- **Homophobia:** all the demonstrations of rejection, exclusion, hostility or violence, whether it is moral or physical, against homosexual people or homosexuality in general. The victims can be homosexual individuals or, more largely, the ones whose appearance or behavior do not fit in the traditional representations of femininity and masculinity.
- **Internalized homophobia:** both a conscious and an unconscious reaction to external negative attitudes toward people within a sexual orientation minority although you are yourself among this sexual orientation minority.
- **Lesbophobia:** a form of homophobia directed towards women. Regroups all the attitudes or demonstrations of despise, rejection, hatred or violence, moral or physical, aiming specifically at women (whether they are lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual) because of their real or supposed homosexuality. This term describes a form of social stigmatization combining homophobia and sexism. It expresses itself for instance through the invisibilization or the negation of lesbian women.

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- **LGBTphobia:** also called “anti-LGBT+ hatred”, refers to any demonstration of despise, rejection or hatred towards a person or a group of people because of their sexual orientation or their gender identity, real or assumed.
- **Outing:** Contrary to “coming-out”. It refers to the act of making public [the fact that a person has a different gender identity or sexual orientation than the one people assume they have] without the consent of the concerned person: it is then a violation of privacy sanctioned by law in France. For the person “outed”, the act is violent, it can expose and fragilize them.
- **Transphobia:** the rejection, hatred or moral and physical violence towards trans people and towards the behavior associated to transidentities, meaning associated to a gender perceived as nonconforming.

# GLOSSARY

## ON QUEER CULTURE

- **Ballroom scene/culture:** comes from the latino and african-american lgbtq+ subculture in the United states, refers to a competition during which the contestants "walk" in order to win a trophée or a prize. Different categories can be presented (dancing, drag categories portraying other genders or social classes, singing, etc).
- **Drag:** a performance during which "masculinity" and "femininity" demonstratives are exaggerated but so are any other forms of gender experssion, with the aim of entertaining an audience.
- **Drag kings:** refers to the female artists and artists that identify as such that dress as men during their drag performances.
- **Drag queens:** refers to the male artists and artists that identify as such that dress as women during their drag performances.
- **Voguing:** dance style that developed during the 1970's in clubs attended by homosexual latinos and african-americans, essentially in new york, but that exported to paris in the 2010's.

# GLOSSARY

## OTHER TERMS TO MEMORIZE

- **Allies:** people that are not from the lgbtq+ community but that support equality for all.
- **Closet:** term used metaphorically to describe lesbians, gays, or bisexuals, that have not yet revealed their sexual orientation. this affirmation can be total or partial.
- **Coming-out:** the moment chosen by someone to voluntarily announce their sexual orientation or their gender identity.
- **Gender-inclusive writing:** regroups a number of writing rules that aim at reducing language inequalities between genders and include non-binary people.
- **LGBT+:** means lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans. Coined in the United-States in the beginning of the 1990s to replace the acronym LGB (lesbian, gay or bisexual), which was preferred over the term "gay", but did not cover every question regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. A "+" can be added to "LGBT" in reference, for instance, to intersex people.
- **Passing:** characterizes people that can be considered as part of another social group than their own, whether it is their ethny, their caste, their social class, their sexual orientation, their gender, their religion, their age or their handicap. In the context of this glossary, it refers to lgbtq+ people that appear to others as cisgender and heterosexual. These individuals tend to face less lgbtphobia than those who do not "pass".
- **Questionning:** describes the situation during which a person is not sure of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **Queer:** originally means "strange" in English, it was initially used as a slur towards LGBT+ people. Today, it is owned by the people that do not wish to define themselves with the normative categories of gender and of sexual orientation.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

- THE 2021 GUIDE "Fighting against anti-LGBT+ hatred and discrimination in higher education and research", From the French Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation
- THE RAINBOW PROJECT GLOSSARY