

The Trans Umbrella

Important Note: These words are social constructs developed over time. New language is constantly formed to unite community members as well as divide groups by experience, politics, and other group memberships. I use the word “Trans” to serve the purpose of inclusion for all listed below, allies, partners, and families.

Transgender

An “umbrella term” for someone whose self-identification, anatomy, appearance, manner, expression, behavior and/or other’s perceptions of challenges traditional societal expectations of congruent gender expression and designated birth sex.

Transexual

Individuals whose designated sex at birth does not match their personal sex/body identity and who, through sex reassignment surgery and hormone treatments, may seek to change their physical body to match their gender identity. Transexuals can be male-to-female (MTF) or female-to-male (FTM). Transsexuals’ sexual identification can be heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.

Intersex Condition

“Intersex is a socially constructed category that reflects real biological variation in reproductive, sexual, or hormonal anatomy. Though usually thought of as an inborn condition, intersex anatomy doesn’t always show up at birth.

Crossdressers

People, often heterosexual men, who are comfortable with their birth assigned gender and will *privately dress* or take on the mannerisms of the “opposite” gender for personal gratification.

Drag Performers

People who dress and *theatrically perform* like the “opposite” gender for entertainment, play, expression, or eroticism. Males are referred to as Drag Queens and females are referred to as Drag Kings. Some identify as trans and others do not.

Gender Variant/Queer

People who find other gender categories constraining. Their gender identities and/or expression is consciously not consistent with conventional standards for masculine or feminine behavior or appearance. Some identify as a blend, as androgynous, or as neither gender.

Cisgender: The dominant privileged reality of a person’s affirmation of birth sex assignment, gender based socialization, and aligned perception of others. The term is being used to describe those individuals that are not included in the Trans umbrella or larger community and may or may not identify as Trans Advocates or Allies.

Gender: The social construction of masculinity or femininity as it aligns with designated sex at birth in a specific culture and time period. Gender identity claims individuality that may or may not be expressed outwardly, and may or may not correspond to one’s sexual anatomy

Sex: The medical assignment of ‘male’ or ‘female’ based upon the external genitalia that an individual possesses at birth. The biological sexes are commonly seen as mutually exclusive, and it is often believed that a person’s assigned sex dictates their gender expression, chromosomal, and hormonal make-up (those born with “male” genitalia should behave in a masculine way and those born with “female” genitalia should behave in a feminine way).

Sexual Identity: A person’s self description of the romantic, sexual, and/or emotional relationships with another or others such as heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, asexual, etc. Much like gender identifications, sexual identity labels are constantly being created to both unite communities and divide members from others.

Adapted from Arizona State University’s SafeZone Gender Identity 101 curriculum. Edited by J. Pettitt 2010. Edited by Hadley Smith, Co-founder, Trainer & Collective Member, TRANSLATE GENDER, 121 Fifth Avenue, PMB 131, Brooklyn, NY 11217 www.translategender.org hadley@translategender.org

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The Trans* Umbrella: Information that Matters to Academic Advisors



Resources

NACADA Commission for LGBTQA Advising and Advocacy -
<http://tinyurl.com/NACADALGBT>

NACADA Commission for LGBTQA Advising and Advocacy Facebook -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NACADALGBTQA/>

Campus Pride – Trans Policy, Best Practices and Trans Checklist for Institutions –
<http://www.campuspride.org/tpc>

GLAAD – Tips for Allies of Transgender People – <http://www.glaad.org/transgender/allies>

Human Rights Campaign Blog on Trans Issues – <http://www.hrc.org/blog/c/transgender>

Human Rights Campaign Report: Supporting and Caring for out Gender Expansive Youth – <http://www.hrc.org/youth/supporting-and-caring-for-our-gender-expansive-youth#.VBxPr2fQceF>

IMPACT: Transgender 101 – <http://www.impactprogram.org/lgbtq-youth/transgender-101/>

Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey –
http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/ntds

The International Foundation for Gender Education – <http://www.ifge.org/>

Harsh Realities: The Experiences of Transgender Youth in Our Nation’s Schools –
<http://glsen.org/learn/research/national/report-harsh-realities>

Lambda Legal: Making the Case for Equality – <http://www.lambdalegal.org/>

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs Report: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV -Affected Hate Violence 2012 – http://www.avp.org/storage/documents/ncavp_2012_hvreport_final.pdf

Potential Best Practices for Colleges and Universities –
<http://architect.lgbtcampus.org/structure/potential-best-practices-for-colleges-and-uni>

The Stonewall Center at UMass Amherst – <http://www.umass.edu/stonewall/transhand/>

The Trans Advocate – <http://www.transadvocate.com>

TransQuotes – <http://transquotes.tumblr.com/>

Trans Student Equality Resources – <http://transstudent.org/>

Transgender Law Center – <http://transgenderlawcenter.org/>

Transgender Students: Seven Recommendations for Academic Advisors –
<http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Clearinghouse/View-Articles/Advising-issues-for-transgender-students.aspx>