



## **Appendix C: LGBT Definitions**

### **Affectional orientation:**

Emotional attraction to another person.

### **Androgyne:**

Person who deliberately adopts characteristics of both genders or strives to attain a gender-neutral or nongender status.<sup>1</sup> (See also **Hermaphrodite**.)

### **Asexual:**

Having no evident sex or sex organs (Webster's). In usage, may refer to a person who is not sexually active, or not sexually attracted to other persons.

### **Bear:**

Slang for a gay man whose disposition is rooted in a subculture that emphasizes male secondary sexual characteristics such as beards and body hair growth,<sup>2</sup> and who is usually somewhat stouter than the average man.

### **Bias:**

Prejudice; an inclination or preference, especially one that interferes with impartial judgment.<sup>3</sup>

### **Bisexual:**

Man or woman with a sexual and affectional or emotional orientation toward people of both sexes.<sup>4</sup>

### **Closeted:**

Not being open about oneself being gay or lesbian.<sup>5</sup>

### **Coming out:**

Refers to the experiences of some, but not all, gay men and lesbians as they explore their sexual identity. There is no correct process or single way to come out, and some LGBT persons do not come out. The process is unique for each individual, and it is the choice of the individual. Several stages have been identified in the process: identity confusion, comparison, tolerance, acceptance, pride, and identity synthesis.<sup>6</sup>

**Compulsive sexual behavior:**

Sexual activity that is driven by stress, anxiety, or depression, rather than by sexual desire. Compulsive sexual behaviors often cause problems for persons who engage in them; problems include the potential for injury or illness, sexually transmitted diseases, and social or legal sanctions.<sup>7</sup>

**Cross-dresser:**

Person who dresses in clothing of the opposite sex for personal expression, emotional satisfaction, or erotic pleasure.<sup>8</sup>

**Cross-gender hormone therapy:**

Hormone medication used by transsexuals and other transgender persons to induce the physical characteristics of the sex with which they identify. Female-to-male hormone therapy utilizes testosterone; male-to-female hormone therapy utilizes estrogen, testosterone blockers, and progesterone.

**Cultural competence:**

Broadly based and diverse understanding of, and ability to respond and relate to, culturally specific nuances, communication styles, traditions, icons, experiences, and spiritual traditions of a given culture or cultures.<sup>9</sup>

**Cultural practice:**

Customs, habits, thinking patterns, and actions based on a set of beliefs, values, and traditions held by a specific group of people.

**Discrimination:**

The act of showing partiality or prejudice; a prejudicial act.<sup>10</sup>

**Domestic partner insurance:**

Health insurance benefits package (which may include medical, mental, dental, or long-term care insurance coverage) provided to an employee's unmarried partner as that insurance coverage would be made available to the employee's spouse.

**Dominant culture:**

The cultural values, beliefs, and practices that are most common, or that are most powerful and influential, within a given society.

**Family:**

Legally defined family is prescribed by legal statute or common law, specifically on the basis of blood relationship, legal marriage, or legal adoption.

**Family of choice:**

Persons or group of people an individual sees as significant in his or her life. It may include none, all, or some members of his or her family of origin. In addition, it may include individuals such as significant others or partners, friends, and coworkers.<sup>11</sup>

**Family recognition benefit:**

Benefit a person is eligible to receive as a result of being recognized as belonging to the family of another person. Ability to be included in a health insurance plan of a family member is one example of a family recognition benefit.

**Female-to-male (FTM) transsexuals:**

Individuals who have started, are in the process, or have partially or fully transitioned from female to male.<sup>12</sup> The FTM process does not necessarily include sex reassignment surgery.

**Gay:**

Term sometimes used to refer to a homosexual person of either sex. For example, some lesbians identify as “gay.” However, “gay” most commonly refers to men who primarily have emotional and sexual attraction to men. Self-identified gay men do not necessarily have sex only with men, but occasionally may engage in sex with women.

**Gender identity:**

Person’s sense of self as being either male or female. Gender identity does not always match biological sex; for example, a person may be born biologically male yet have a female gender identity.<sup>13</sup>

**Gender-neutral:**

Nondiscriminatory language to describe relationships — e.g. “spouse” and “partner” are gender-neutral alternatives to the gender-specific words “husband” and “wife.”

**Gender-variant:**

Displaying gender traits that are normatively more typical of the opposite biological sex, within a given. “Feminine” behavior or appearance in men is gender-variant as is “masculine” behavior or appearance in women. Gender-variant behavior is culturally specific.

**Gender role:**

How “masculine” or “feminine” an individual acts. Society commonly has norms regarding how men and women should behave,<sup>14</sup> although the argument is made that dominant normative behavior is a dynamic, often evolving, process. (See also **Gender-variant**.)

**Hate crime:**

Hate crime legislation “defines a hate crime as an act committed on the basis of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation of any person.”<sup>15</sup>

**Hermaphrodite (also may be referred to as intersex person):**

Older, medical term for a person born with both male and female genitalia or reproductive organs. Today, “intersex” appears to be emerging as the preferred term in common usage, but some intersexed persons continue to refer to themselves as hermaphrodites.<sup>16</sup> The Intersex Society of North America believes that “hermaphrodite” is a stigmatizing and misleading term. The Society reports a growing momentum to eliminate the word “hermaphrodite” from medical literature and use only the word “intersex” in its place.<sup>17</sup> (See also **Androgyne**.)

**Heterosexism:**

Belief that heterosexuality is the only “natural” sexuality and that it is inherently healthier or superior to other types of sexuality.<sup>18</sup>

**Heterosexual:**

Individual with a primary sexual and affectional orientation or emotional attraction toward persons of the opposite sex. Heterosexuals are sometimes referred to as “straight.”<sup>19</sup>

**Homophobia:**

Irrational fear or hatred of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender people.

**Homosexual:**

Individual with a primary sexual and affectional orientation or emotional attraction toward persons of the same sex. Male homosexuals are often referred to as “gay,” whereas female homosexuals are referred to as “lesbians.”<sup>20</sup>

**Internalized homophobia:**

Internalized self-hatred that gays and lesbians struggle with as a result of heterosexual prejudice. Persons who experience internalized homophobia accept and believe the negative messages of the dominant group as they relate to gay men, lesbians,<sup>21</sup> bisexuals, and transgender people.

**Intersexed:**

Person having the characteristics of both male and female biological organs or genitalia. (See also **Hermaphrodite**.)

**Lesbian:**

A woman who has primary emotional and sexual attraction to other women. Sometimes lesbian women engage in sexual behaviors with men, even though the women self-identify as lesbian.<sup>22</sup>

**LGBT:**

Acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender.

**LGBTQ:**

Acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning. Questioning is commonly used to refer to adolescents. (See also **Questioning youth**.)

**Male-to-female (MTF) transsexuals:**

Individuals who have started, are in the process, or have partially or fully transitioned from male to female.<sup>23</sup> The MTF process does not necessarily include sex reassignment surgery.

**Marginalized:**

Excluded, ignored, or relegated to the outer edge of a group,<sup>24</sup> or society.

**Men who have sex with men (MSM):**

Men who engage in same-sex behavior, but who may not necessarily self-identify as gay.

**Nonoperative transsexual:**

A transsexual individual who has decided not to undergo sex reassignment surgery.<sup>25</sup>

**Out or out of the closet:**

Refers to varying degrees of being open about one's sexual orientation or gender identity.<sup>26</sup> (See also **Coming out**.)

**Penile-inversion vaginoplasty:**

In sex reassignment surgery, the creation of a vaginal cavity in a male-to-female transsexual using the skin of the penis turned inside out to line the vaginal cavity.

**Questioning youth:**

Young individual who may be experiencing lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender feelings or urges, but has not yet identified his or her sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBTQ is included in this population.

**Reparative therapy (also called conversion therapy):**

Attempt to change a person's sexual orientation from lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender to heterosexual.

**Same-sex sexual orientation:**

Having an erotic, physical, and emotional attraction to persons of one's own sex.

**Self-identify:**

To perceive and express one's internal reality or identity (as in sexual orientation or gender identity), as opposed to external factors and others' interpretations of them.<sup>27</sup>

**Sex reassignment surgery:**

Surgery performed on transsexuals to create genitalia resembling those of the sex with which the person identifies. In male-to-female transsexuals, this means removal of the penis and testes and creation of a vulva and vagina. In female-to-male transsexuals, this means removal of the uterus, tubes and ovaries, and often creation of a penis, testes, and scrotum.

**Sex workers:**

Individuals (either male or female) who work as prostitutes, hustlers, or escorts and are in the business of providing sex for money, drugs, or housing.<sup>28</sup>

**Sexual identity:**

What people call themselves with regard to their sexuality. Labels include “lesbian,” “gay,” “bisexual,” “bi,” “queer,” “questioning,” “undecided” or “undetermined,” “heterosexual,” “straight,” and “asexual.” Sexual identity evolves through a multistage developmental process, which varies in intensity and duration depending on the individual. Our sexual behavior and how we define ourselves (our identity) is usually a choice.<sup>29</sup> Sexual identity also refers to a person’s erotic and affectional response to another with respect to gender: heterosexual, lesbian, gay, or transgender.

**Sexual identity formation:**

The process of coming to recognize one’s attraction to members of one or both sexes and to define or label oneself on the basis of that attraction.

**Sexual minority:**

Refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning people as a minority in a predominantly heterosexual total population.

**Significant other:**

Life partner, domestic partner, lover, boyfriend, or girlfriend. Because gays and lesbians are not allowed to marry legally in the United States (although gay and lesbian marriages are allowed in some European countries), “significant other” is often equivalent to the term “spouse” for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.<sup>30</sup>

**Sodomy laws:**

State statutes (which vary by State) that prohibit contact between the mouth or anus of one person and the sexual organs of another person, consensual or otherwise.<sup>31</sup>

**Transgender person:**

Person whose gender identity or gender expression is not congruent with his or her biological sex. Transgender persons usually live full or part time in the gender role opposite to the one in which they were born. “Transgender” sometimes may be used as an umbrella term encompassing transsexuals, transvestites, and cross-dressers.

**Transgenders who have sex with men (TSM):**

Transgender people who engage in sex with men.

**Transphobia:**

Irrational fear or hatred of transgender or transsexual individuals.<sup>32</sup>

**Transsexual:**

Individual whose gender identity is that of the opposite sex. There are female-to-male and male-to-female transsexuals. A transsexual may or may not have had sex reassignment surgery.

**Vaginoplasty:**

In sex reassignment surgery, the creation of a vaginal cavity in a male-to-female transsexual. (See also **Penile-inversion vaginoplasty**.)

**Women who have sex with men (WSM):**

Women who engage in sex with men, but may not necessarily identify as heterosexual.

**Women who have sex with women (WSW):**

Women who engage in same-sex behavior, but may not necessarily identify as lesbian.

**Women who partner with women (WPW):**

Women who form long-term or committed relationships with other women, often involving cohabitation. May or may not involve same-sex behavior.

**Additional definitions and links:**

Wizard's Gay Slang Dictionary: <http://www.hurricane.net/~wizard>

GayProud: <http://www.gayproud.org>

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<sup>1</sup> Sember, R.; Lawrence, A.; and Xavier, J. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender health: Findings and concerns. *Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association* 4(3):37, 2000.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Bulger, Original Publisher, *Bear Magazine*. Retrieved January 14, 2001.

<sup>3</sup> Neufeldt, V., ed. *Webster's New World Dictionary of American English, Third College Edition*. 1991, 135.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, 2000, A-1.

<sup>5</sup> Scott, R. A Brief Dictionary of Queer Slang and Culture. 1997. Retrieved January 14, 2001. [www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Stonewall/4219/](http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Stonewall/4219/).

<sup>6</sup> DHHS, SAMHSA. *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. Rockville: SAMHSA, MD, 2001, xvii.

<sup>7</sup> Coleman, E. Is your patient suffering from compulsive sexual behavior. *Psychiatric Annals* 22:320-325, 1992.

<sup>8</sup> Sember, R.; Lawrence, A.; and Xavier, J. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender health: Findings and concerns. *Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association* 4(3):37, 2000.

<sup>9</sup> DHHS, SAMHSA. *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, 2000, A-1.

<sup>10</sup> Neufeldt, V., ed. *Webster's New World Dictionary of American English, Third College Edition*. 1991, 393.

<sup>11</sup> DHHS, SAMHSA. *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, 2000, A-2.

<sup>12</sup> Transgender Nation.

<sup>13</sup> DHHS, SAMHSA. *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, 2000, A-2.

<sup>14</sup> JRI Health.

<sup>15</sup> DHHS, SAMHSA, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. *Substance Abuse Resource Guide: Hate Crimes*. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, DHHS Publication No. (SMA) 00-3445, 2000, 11.

<sup>16</sup> DHHS, SAMHSA. *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, Page A-2. 2000.

<sup>17</sup> Intersex Society of North America. <http://www.isna.org>.

<sup>18</sup> DHHS, SAMHSA. *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, 2000, A-2.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Transgender Nation.

<sup>24</sup> Neufeldt, V., ed. *Webster's New World Dictionary of American English, Third College Edition*. 1991, 827.

<sup>25</sup> DHHS, SAMHSA. *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, 2000, A-2.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Gender Web Project. Transgender, Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Glossary and Acronym List. 1994. Retrieved January 14, 2001. <http://www.genderweb.org/general/tlbgglos.html>.

<sup>28</sup> DHHS, SAMHSA. *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, 2000, A-3.

<sup>29</sup> Blumenfeld, W.J. *Adolescence, Sexual Orientation and Identity: An Overview*. OutProud, Be Yourself. Available online at [http://www.outproud.org/article\\_sexual\\_identity.html](http://www.outproud.org/article_sexual_identity.html).

<sup>30</sup> DHHS, SAMHSA. *A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals*. Rockville, MD: SAMHSA, 2000, A-3.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.