

QUEER

*[Not queer as in a slur,
but queer as in someone's identity.]*

HISTORY OF TERM: In the late 1980s, the label “queer” began to be reclaimed by LGBTQ people as a positive self-identifier. The term has also been reclaimed as an adjective to describe something in the LGBTQ community that disrupts societal norms: queer bodies, queer art, queer theology.

QUEER can be an umbrella term for the LGBTQ community. It can also refer to an individual’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity. It is an identifier for all non-heterosexual orientations and non-cisgender identities.



WHY USE QUEER?

People choose to use queer instead of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender for a variety of reasons. Some people choose this term for themselves because they feel like they do not fit into the roles other labels imply. For some it can also mean they do not fit into societal norms and want an identity term to reflect who they really are.



PEOPLE OVER DEFINITIONS:

Some people prefer not to be grouped under this term or not have non-queer people use it when referring to them. Please use caution as you use the term to describe someone.

Not all queer people use he/him/his or she/her/hers pronouns. For some “they, them, theirs,” “xe, xem, xyrs,” or “ze, hir, hirs” are gender inclusive pronouns which most accurately reflect that person’s identity. *Read more about personal pronouns on the next page.*