



Jackson Pride Center

Pride Newsletter Spring/Summer 2025

We're excited to share that a new quarterly newsletter is on the way—created for both allies and members of the LGBTQ+ community who are committed to inclusion, respect, and ongoing learning. Whether you're looking to be a more inclusive friend, colleague, leader, or business, this newsletter will offer practical tips, thoughtful reflections, and timely resources to support and uplift LGBTQ+ lives. From understanding evolving language to exploring key topics and challenges, we'll cover a wide range of issues designed to spark awareness, inspire action, and encourage meaningful conversations. We hope you'll read, share, and engage with this content—and join us in building a more inclusive world, one step at a time. Enjoy this first mini-issue and stay tuned for the first full edition coming soon!

Supporting with Words: Why Language Matters in LGBTQ+ Allyship

As allies, the words we choose can have a powerful impact—either affirming someone's identity or unintentionally causing harm. Inclusive, up-to-date language shows respect, builds trust, and helps create safer spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals. But language evolves, and staying informed is part of our ongoing responsibility. Let's commit to learning together, sharing what we learn with others, and having open conversations about how we can all do better. By using our voices thoughtfully, we can be stronger, more effective allies.

Keeping Up with LGBTQ+ Terminology as an Ally

As allies, we want to show our support by using the most respectful and inclusive language possible. Terminology within the LGBTQ+ community can evolve over time, so we're committed to staying informed and up to date. We want to make sure the words we use reflect respect, affirmation, and understanding. If you're also looking to be a better ally, it's important to regularly check reliable sources (**GLAAD** is one trusted source), listen to LGBTQ+ voices, and be open to learning and adjusting your language as needed.

LGBTQ+

Acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning with the + added in recognition of all non-straight, non-cisgender identities.

Ally

An adjective used to describe a straight and/or cisgender person who supports and advocates for LGBTQ+ people.

Sexual Orientation

The scientifically accurate term for a person's enduring physical, romantic and/ or emotional attraction to another person. Gender identity and sexual orientation are not the same.

Gender Identity

A person's internal, deeply held knowledge of their own gender. Everyone has a gender identity. For most people their gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth. For transgender people, their gender identity does not align with the sex they were assigned at birth. Many people have a gender identity of man or woman. For other people, their gender identity does not fit neatly into one of those two binary genders.

Transgender

An adjective to describe people whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. People who are transgender may also use other terms, in addition to transgender, to describe their gender more specifically. Some of those terms are defined below.

Transgender Man

A man who was assigned female at birth may use this term to describe himself.

Transmasculine/Transmasc

A term that describes a transgender person (generally, but not exclusively), who was

assigned female at birth, and whose gender is masculine and/or who express themselves in a masculine way, but do not always identify as a man.

Transgender Woman

A woman who was assigned male at birth may use this term to describe herself.

Transfemine/Transfemme

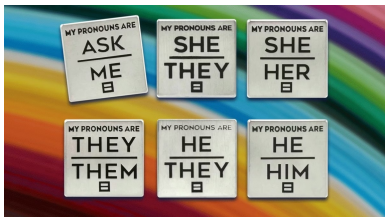
A term that typically refers to individuals who were assigned male at birth but identify more closely with femininity than masculinity. This can encompass a wide range of identities, including transgender women, nonbinary, genderqueer, or genderfluid people, all of whom express some level of feminine identity.

Nonbinary

Nonbinary is an adjective used by people who experience their gender identity and/or gender expression as falling outside the binary gender categories of man and woman.

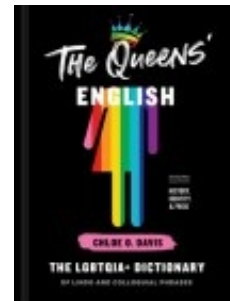
Gender Non-Conforming

A term used to describe people whose gender expression differs from conventional expectations of masculinity and femininity.



Why We Ask Each Other Our Pronouns

Get all your questions answered! Here's everything you need to know: [Why We Ask Each Other Our Pronouns](#) -article by Human Rights Campaign. www.hrc.org/resources



A landmark reference guide to the LGBTQIA+ community's contributions to the English language—an intersectional, inclusive, playfully illustrated glossary featuring more than 800 terms and fabulous phrases created by and for queer culture.

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