

Androgyny (also androgynous, bi-gendered, no-gendered)

A person [a] who identifies as both or neither of the two culturally defined genders; and/or [b] who expresses and/or presents merged culturally/stereotypically feminine and masculine characteristics, or mainly neutral characteristics. May or may not express dual gender identity. [An androgyne is a person who does not fit cleanly into the typical masculine and feminine gender roles of their society. Many androgynes identify as being mentally "between" male and female, or as entirely genderless. The former may also use the term *bigender* or *ambigender*, the latter *non-gendered* or *agender*. They may experience mental swings between genders, sometimes referred to as being *gender fluid*.]

Assigned Gender

The announcement by doctors (It's a boy/girl) based on what your physical anatomy looks like. Based on this, you are supposed to grow up, to be and exist within a certain set of gender roles.

Binary Gender System

A culturally defined code of acceptable behaviors which teach that there are men and women, who are masculine and feminine, and that there is nothing outside this system. The problem that occurs when we talk about gender is that everything is set in the binary system, but the gender issues that we are talking about exist in a multi-gender system and do not neatly fit into a binary system.

Binding

The practice of taping or compressing the chest or "breast tissue" so that one can pass as a man, this is done with extremely tight bras, elastic bandages, and other methods.

Bottom Surgery

"Below the waist", to either create a vagina (for a male-to-female, MTF) or a penis and testicles (for a female-to-male, FTM). There are many different issues that cause each person to make the decision to either have or not have the surgeries. Some factors include: desire, expense, physical health, age, and access to medical care and information. There are also many difficulties that can occur with these surgeries, which will factor into each individual's decision-making.

BoYdyke

(SEE DYKE) A "female bodied" person who intentionally or non-intentionally expresses and/or presents culturally/stereotypically masculine, particularly boyish, characteristics. Also, one who enjoys being perceived as a young male (passing).

Butch

Used to identify a person who expresses and/or presents culturally/stereotypically masculine characteristics. Often a person who self-identifies to a great degree with the stereotypically masculine end of a gender characteristic spectrum. Can be used either as a positive or negative term.

Cross-Dressing (Also Transvestite, Transvestitism)

A person who wears the clothing considered typical for another gender on occasion, but does not desire to change their gender. Reasons for cross-dressing can range from a need to express a feminine or masculine side to attainment of erotic/sexual/fetish gratification. Cross-dressers can be of any sexual orientation, but within this community, there is a large percentage of heterosexually/straight-identified individuals. [a person who, regardless of motivation, wears clothes, makeup, etc. that are considered by the culture to be appropriate for another gender but not one's own. This is the preferred term to "transvestite", which is considered archaic and pejorative.]

Cross-Living

Cross-living is cross-dressing full-time (which is also referred to as 24/7), and living as the gender which you perceive yourself to be.

Drag (also Drag King, Drag Queen, Female/Male Impersonator)

Wearing the clothing of another gender, often with exaggerated cultural/stereotypical gender characteristics. Individuals may identify as Drag Kings (female in drag) or Drag Queens (male in drag). Drag often refers to dressing for functional purposes such as entertainment/performance or social gatherings. Drag has held a significant place in GLBT history and community.

Effeminate

Used to identify a person (usually male) who expresses and/or presents culturally/stereotypically feminine characteristics. This is often viewed as a culturally negative term.

F2M/FTM (Female to Male)

Used to identify a person who was female bodied at birth and who identifies as male, lives as a man, or identifies as masculine. [A female-to-male transsexual, a transsexual man, a transman, or a transguy— individuals assigned female at birth who identify as male. Some transmen reject being seen as “FTM,” arguing that they have always been male and are only making this identity visible to other people (instead, they may call themselves “MTM”). Other transmen feel that “FTM” and similar language reinforces an either/or gender system.]

Female Bodied

A person who was assigned a female gender at birth, or a person who has had their genitals surgically altered to be a woman.

Femme

A person who identifies with being a woman, who understands the power and seduction of the feminine spirit and one who is willing to be powerful as a woman. Can be used to identify a person who expresses and/or presents culturally/stereotypically feminine characteristics. Can be used either as a positive or negative term.

Gender-Bender (also Gender-Blender)

A person who merges characteristics of all genders in subtle ways or intentionally flaunts merged/blurred cultural/stereotypical gender norms for the purpose of shocking others, without concern for passing.

Gender Dysphoria

An intense continuous discomfort resulting from an individual's belief in the inappropriateness of their assigned gender at birth and resulting gender role expectations. Also, clinical psychological diagnosis, which offends many in transgender communities, but is often required to receive hormones and/or surgery.

Gender Queer

A term which is used by some people who may or may not fit on the spectrum of trans, or be labeled as trans, but who identify their gender and their sexual orientation to be outside the assumed norm. [A term used by individuals, especially transgender youth, who do not identify as either male or female and who often seek to blur gender lines. Among the dozens of more specific “genderqueer” terms are transboi, boydyke, third gendered, bi-gendered, multi-gendered, andro, androgyne, gender bender, gender f*cker, gender variant, gender non-conforming.]

Gender Reassignment Surgery--GRS (also Sex Reassignment Surgery--SRS)

Permanent surgical refashioning of genitalia to resemble the genitalia of the desired gender. Sought to attain congruence between one's body and one's gender identity. [Surgical procedures that change one's body to conform to one's gender identity. Sometimes GRS is referred to as "gender confirming surgery," to recognize that one's gender does not change—it is only being made visible to others. These procedures may include "top surgery" (breast augmentation or removal) and "bottom surgery" (altering genitals or internal organs).

For female-to-male transsexuals, GRS could involve:

**bilateral mastectomy (chest reconstruction),
oophorectomy (removal of the ovaries)
panhysterectomy (removal of the ovaries and uterus),**

Less common surgeries include:

**phalloplasty (construction of a penis)
scrotoplasty (formation of a scrotum)
or metoidioplasty (restructuring the clitoris).**

For male-to-female transsexuals, GRS could involve:

**optional surgical breast implants
and vaginoplasty (construction of a vagina).**

Additional surgeries and procedures might include:

**tracheal shave (reducing the size of the Adam's apple),
bone restructuring to feminize facial features,
hair removal from face,
and hair transplants for the top of the head.**

Genetic

Often used to refer to the assigned gender at birth. Also used to refer to the discussion of the chromosomal makeup of an individual.

Getting Read (Clocked)

Being detected as a person who is cross-dressed.

Hir

Used in place of him/her, a new pronoun for those folks who stand outside the binary system that we have in this society.

Hormone Therapy (also Hormone Replacement Therapy, HRT, Hormonal Sex Reassignment)

Administration of hormones to affect the development of secondary sex characteristics of the opposite assigned gender; this is a process, possibly lifelong, of using hormones to change the internal body chemistry. Androgens (testosterone) are used for female-to-males, and Estrogens are used for male-to-females.

Intersexed (also Hennaphrodite)

An Individual born with full or partial genitalia of both genders, or with underdeveloped or ambiguous genitalia. Surgery is common in infancy, when a singular gender is assigned. Many who have surgery develop feeling a sense of loss of an essential part of themselves. [“Intersex” is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn’t seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male. For more information please visit the web site for the Intersex Society of North America. Many people who are intersex do not identify as transgender, but some do. This is the preferred term to “hermaphrodite”, which is used medically but in social circles it is considered pejorative.]

M2F, MTF, Male-to-Female

Used to identify a person who was male bodied at birth and who identifies as a female, lives as a woman, or identifies as feminine. [A male-to-female transsexual, a transsexual woman, a transwoman, or a transrrl— individuals assigned male at birth who identify as female. Some transwomen reject being seen as “MTF,” arguing that they have always been female and are only making this identity visible to other people (instead, they may call themselves “FTF”). Other transwomen feel that “MTF” and similar language reinforces an either/or gender system.]

Male Bodied

A person who was assigned a male gender at birth, or a person who has had their genitals surgically altered to be a man.

Non-Op

Individuals who have not attained and may not desire to attain gender reassignment surgery, and may or may not take hormone therapy. For many individuals, self-identification and self-expression, through cross-living or other methods of gender identity achieve harmony or congruence between one's body and one's gender identity and there is no need felt for surgical reconstruction.

Pansexual (also Omnisexual)

An individual who is emotionally, spiritually, physically, and/or sexually attracted to those of any gender or physical makeup.

Passing

The ability for a person to present themselves in another gender than which they live full-time or in which they were assigned at birth. [“Reading” is the term that describes what happens when someone looks at another and perceives them as a particular gender. This can be negative if a person is “read” as trans and they are attempting to pass. “Passing” occurs when the gender identity that the person identifies as is the one that is read by others.]

Pre-Op (also Pre-Operative)

Transsexual individuals who have not attained gender reassignment surgery, but who desire to and are seeking that as an option. They may or may not cross-live full time and may or may not take hormone therapy. They may also seek surgery to change secondary sex characteristics.

Post-Op (also Post-operative)

Transsexual individuals who have attained gender reassignment surgery, and/or other surgeries to change secondary sex characteristics.

Presentation

The totality of one's appearance when dressing, including voice, behavior, appropriateness of clothing for the situation, etc.

Real Life Test (also Life Test)

A period of time required of individuals seeking gender reassignment surgery during which they must live full-time expressing and presenting the gender in which they identify. Many doctors require a Real-Life Test of two or more years before advancing to surgery.

Secondary Sex Characteristics

The changes that occur when a person reaches puberty. They include but are not limited to: facial and body hair growth, muscle development, voice changes, breast development, and the ability to reproduce.

Sex Assignment

The declaration, by doctors, based on what your external genitalia looks like, which gender you are; therefore you are supposed to grow up and exist within a certain set of gender roles.

Standards of Care

A set of minimum guidelines formulated by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc. (HBI-GDA) for care of transsexual individuals and providing requirements for consumers and service providers.

Shape Shifter (also Metamorph)

Used by some people who choose not to identify as transsexuals, to express their belief they are not changing their gender, but changing their body to reflect their inner feelings and gender identity.

Top Surgery

Surgery "above the waist," usually breast augmentation for MTFs and breast reduction for FTMs. There are many different issues that cause each person to make the decision either to have or not have the surgeries, some factors include: desire, expense, physical health, age, and access to medical care and information. There are also many difficulties that can occur with these surgeries, which will factor into each individual's decision-making process.

Trans* (also Transgender)

Those who transgress societal gender norms; often used as an umbrella term to mean those who defy rigid, bipolar gender constructions, and who express or present a breaking and/or blurring of cultural/stereotypical gender roles. This includes: androgynes, cross-dressers, gender-benders, intersexed individuals, shape-shifters, transvestites, and transsexuals. [Most commonly used as an umbrella term for someone whose self-identification or expression challenges traditional notions of male and female. Transgender people include transsexuals, crossdressers, drag queens and kings, genderqueers, and others who cross traditional gender categories.]

Transgender Community (also Gender Community)

A loose association of individuals and organizations who transgress gender norms in a variety of ways. Celebrating a recently born self-awareness, this community is growing fast across all lines. The central ethic of this community is unconditional acceptance of individual exercise of freedoms including gender and sexual identity and orientation.

Transgenderist

People who choose to cross-live full time, but who choose not to have Sex Reassignment Surgery/Gender Reassignment Surgery. They may or may not have some surgeries, and they may or may not use hormones.

Transition

The period during which a transgender individual (usually transsexual) begins to live a new life in their gender. Also, includes the period of full-time living (Real Life Test) required before gender reassignment surgery.

Transphobia (also genderphobia)

The irrational fear of those who are perceived to break and/or blur cultural/stereotypical gender roles, often assumed to be queer. Expressed as negative feelings, attitudes, actions or behaviors against those perceived as breaking and/or blurring cultural/stereotypical gender roles. [The fear, hatred, or intolerance of people who identify or are perceived as transgender.]

Transsexual (also Female-to-Male (FTM/F2M), Male-to-Female (MTF/M2F), Pre-Operative, Post-Operative, Non-Operative)

A person who, through experiencing an intense long-term discomfort resulting from feeling the inappropriateness of their assigned gender at birth and discomfort of their body, adapts their gender role and body in order to reflect and be congruent with their gender identity. This may include cross-living, synthesized sex hormones, surgery and other body modification which may or may not lead to the feeling of harmony between a person's body and gender identity.

Tuck

The technique of hiding male genitals.

Ze

Used in place of she/he, a new pronoun when you need to talk about an individual whose gender does not neatly fit into a particular box.