

2S - LGBTQ+



Two Spirit (or Two Spirited or 2 Spirit)

A term used by some Indigenous people to self-identify. It is an Indigenous specific term that can only be used by Indigenous people to identify themselves. While the term itself is Anishinaabe based, it has been taken up by different Indigenous nation's to describe complex experiences and identities as well as cultural roles and responsibilities.

Two spirit can sometimes refer to sexual orientation and at other times to gender identity, depending on the individual and/or their particular nation. It can also describe roles and responsibilities specific to different Indigenous nations that may or may not be tied to sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Not all Indigenous people identify with the term two spirit.

2S



Lesbian

Women who are attracted to other women.

The word lesbian is also used for women in relation to their sexual identity or sexual behaviour regardless of sexual orientation or as an adjective to characterize or associate nouns with female same-sex attraction.

L



Gay

Can refer to anyone who experience romantic attraction, sexual attraction, or sexual behaviour toward the same gender, though it is commonly used by men.

Most prefer "gay" over "homosexual" to describe their sexual orientation.

G



Bisexual

Bisexual people experience romantic attraction, sexual attraction, or sexual behaviour toward both men and women or to more than one sex or gender.

B



Transgender (or trans)

Someone whose gender identity does not align with the gender they were assigned at birth. Can also be an umbrella term: in addition to including people whose gender identity is the opposite of their assigned sex (trans men and trans women), it may include people who are not exclusively masculine or feminine (people who are non-binary or genderqueer). Other definitions of transgender also include people who belong to a third gender.

Transgender is a gender identity and is distinct from sexual orientation. Trans people may identify as heterosexual, bisexual, gay, lesbian, or any other sexual identity.

T



Queer

A word that many have reclaimed as an umbrella term for non-normative sexual and/or gender identities. Queer can be used as either an individual identity or an umbrella term for all members of LGBT community as in "queer community"

Because of its use as an insult, not everyone thinks that "queer" is a word that can or should be reclaimed and do not identify with this term.



The "+" indicates all the identities not named in this acronym. Pansexual, intersex, asexual, and questioning folks are also part of the broader queer community that we are seeking to reach with this network.

You may have seen acronyms like GLBT, LGBTQ, LGBTQQ2SIA, or LGBTQQIP2SAA. These are all commonly used and may be the preferred acronym for some of the organizations and resources we work with.

Q



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