



# Gay 101

## Basic Facts

- At least 1,500 animal species demonstrate same-sex attraction.
- At least 6% of every human culture demonstrates same-sex attraction.
- At least half the human race loves someone who is LGBT.
- Only one species demonstrates homophobia.

## LGBT Alphabet Soup

**Lesbian:** Women whose enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attraction is to other women. Some lesbians may prefer to identify as gay, or as gay women.

**Gay:** Describes people whose enduring physical, romantic, and/or emotional attractions are to people of the same sex (a gay man or gay people).

**Bisexual:** Those who are physically, romantically, and/or emotionally attracted to both men and women.

**Transgender:** People whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex assigned at birth. Transgender may include transsexuals, cross-dressers, and other gender-variant people. Transgender people may identify as female-to-male (FTM) or male-to-female (MTF). Transgender people may or may not decide to alter their bodies hormonally and/or surgically.

**Queer:** Traditionally demeaning, "queer" is now used by some LGBT people to describe themselves. OK if describing someone who self-identifies that way.

**Questioning:** Describes people who are unsure of their sexual orientation.

**Pansexual:** Those attracted to others without considering gender or biological sex.

**Asexual:** Not physically, romantically, or emotionally attracted to others.

**Intersex:** Describes people whose biological sex is ambiguous. Many genetic, hormonal, or anatomical variations can make a person's sex ambiguous (e.g., Klinefelter syndrome). "Intersex" is not a synonym for "transgender."

**Ally:** People who are not LGBT but who support the LGBT community.

**PFLAG:** Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, a national organization founded 40 years ago by the mother of a gay son. There are over 350 chapters whose mission is SUPPORT, EDUCATION & ADVOCACY.

