LGBTQ is an acronym meant to encompass a whole bunch of diverse sexualities and genders. Folks often refer to the Q (standing for “queer”) as an umbrella term, under which live a whole bunch of identities. This is helpful because lesbian, gay, and bisexual aren’t the only marginalized sexualities, and transgender* isn’t the only gender identity. In fact, there are many more of both!

* The “Q” sometimes stands for “questioning” and “transgender” is often thought of as an umbrella term itself (sometimes abbreviated “trans”, or “trans*” in writing). Lots of asterisks, lots of exceptions, because hey – we’re talking about lots of different folks with different lived experiences to be inclusive of.
The Gender Unicorn

Gender Identity
- Female/Woman/Girl
- Male/Man/Boy
- Other Gender(s)

Gender Expression/Presentation
- Feminine
- Masculine
- Other

Sex Assigned at Birth
- Female
- Male
- Other/Intersex

Sexually Attracted To
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Romantically/Emotionally Attracted To
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

To learn more, go to: www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan
Some terms related to gender identity

How do you see yourself?

This might be related to your biological sex. It might also not be!

➔ Cisgender
➔ Transgender or Trans*
➔ Intersex*
➔ Genderfluid
➔ Genderqueer
➔ Agender
➔ Two-Spirit
➔ Third Gender
➔ Genderf*ck
➔ Non-binary
➔ Gender non-conforming
Some terms related to sexuality

Who are you attracted to?

➔ Heterosexual
➔ Lesbian
➔ Gay
➔ Bisexual
➔ Queer
➔ Pansexual
➔ Asexual
➔ Androsexual/Gynosexual
➔ Skoliosexual
➔ Sexual Fluidity
Gender Expression

How do you express your gender (and sometimes sexuality as well) to the wider world?

Some factors involved:

➔ The gender you were raised as
➔ Your inner identity
➔ The culture(s) you are part of, even if you don’t buy into them
➔ Your sexuality
➔ Your personal tastes
➔ You! You! You!
Just a few ways to be attracted to and connect with another person:

- Sexual attraction
- Romantic attraction
- Aesthetic attraction
- Intellectual attraction
- Admiration
- Attachment
- Affection
- Raw chemistry
Break the Binary

Some false binaries we encounter every day

- Either male or female
- Straight or gay
- Sexual or asexual
- Can you think of others?

These concepts are certainly useful, but more as two ends of a whole spectrum of experiences than as a “pick one or the other” system.
Our culture has a hard time with these concepts, due to hundreds of years of conditioning.
People who fall outside of culturally defined norms are still punished in a variety of ways just for being themselves.
Especially if you’ve never considered them before, these ideas are challenging! It’s ok to be confused.
But if there’s one thing I hope you leave here today having learned, it’s this:
All identities and all expressions are normal. And this means that all identities and expressions must be respected.
Respect comes in a variety of forms

Here are a few ways we can all respect each other's identities:

➔ Assume nothing!
➔ Ask for someone's pronouns, and then use them, whatever they are.
➔ Use the name a person requests be used.
➔ Never “out” someone without their express permission.
➔ Don’t use terms that don’t belong to you.
Pronouns

The fastest way to affirm someone’s gender identity is to use the right pronouns.

The most common pronouns in English are:

➔ She/her/hers
➔ He/him/his
➔ They/them/their

But there are others!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-traditional pronouns</th>
<th>Ey laughed</th>
<th>I called em</th>
<th>Eir eyes gleam</th>
<th>That is eirs</th>
<th>Ey likes eirself</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elverson (1975)</strong>[48]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spivak (1983)</strong>[49][50]</td>
<td>E laughed</td>
<td>I called Em</td>
<td>Eir eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is Eirs</td>
<td>E likes Emself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Humanist</strong>[51]</td>
<td>Hu laughed</td>
<td>I called hum</td>
<td>Hus eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is hus</td>
<td>Hu likes himself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peh</strong>[52][53]</td>
<td>Peh laughed</td>
<td>I called pehm</td>
<td>Peh's eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is peh's</td>
<td>Peh likes pehself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Per</strong>[54]</td>
<td>Per laughed</td>
<td>I called per</td>
<td>Per eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is pers</td>
<td>Per likes perself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thon</strong>[55]</td>
<td>Thon laughed</td>
<td>I called thon</td>
<td>Thons eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is thons</td>
<td>Thon likes thonself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jee, Jeir, Jem</strong>[56]</td>
<td>Jee laughed</td>
<td>I called jem</td>
<td>Jeir eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is jeirs</td>
<td>Jee likes jemself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ve</strong>[57]</td>
<td>Ve laughed</td>
<td>I called ver</td>
<td>Vis eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is vis</td>
<td>Ve likes verself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Xe</strong>[58]</td>
<td>Xe laughed</td>
<td>I called xem</td>
<td>Xyr eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is xyrs</td>
<td>Xe likes xemself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yo (regional)</strong>[59][60]</td>
<td>Yo laughed</td>
<td>I called yo</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ze (or zie or sie) and zir (Germanic Origin)</strong>[61]</td>
<td>Ze laughed</td>
<td>I called zir/zem</td>
<td>Zir/Zes eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is zirs/zes</td>
<td>Ze likes zir/zemself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ze (or zie or sie) and hir</strong>[62]</td>
<td>Ze laughed</td>
<td>I called hir</td>
<td>Hir eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is hirs</td>
<td>Ze likes hirself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ze and mer</strong>[63]</td>
<td>Ze laughed</td>
<td>I called mer</td>
<td>Zer eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is zers</td>
<td>Ze likes zemself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Zhe, Zher, Zhim</strong>[64]</td>
<td>Zhe laughed</td>
<td>I called zhim</td>
<td>Zher eyes gleam</td>
<td>That is zher</td>
<td>Zhe likes zhimself</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A plethora of alternatives (thanks, Wikipedia!)
How to be a good ally

We can all be allies to somebody. Here’s how to do it right

➔ Let members of the community speak first
➔ If you have privilege, use it to amplify the voices of the oppressed, not to speak over them
➔ If you’re called out by someone you hope to be an ally to, don’t get mad. Listen and learn.
iQueeries: the intersection between queerness and information
Thank you ALL for listening!

Check out our facebook page: facebook.com/groups/iqueerios

We’re a new RSO but we’ve got big goals and dreams and we want you to be a part of it!

Credit for The Gender Unicorn and LGBT Umbrella goes jointly to:

➔ Landyn Pan at Transstudent.org (designed the graphic)
➔ The Safe Zone Project (created the activity that goes with it)