



TRANS GUIDANCE FOR THE POLICING SECTOR

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



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ALLIES OF TRANS PEOPLE

Usually a cis or non-trans person who supports members of the trans communities.

ACQUIRED GENDER

The law uses the phrase 'acquired gender' to refer to the gender in which a trans person lives and presents to the world. This isn't the gender that they were assigned at birth, but it is the gender in which they live.

BI

Refers to an emotional and/or sexual orientation towards more than one gender.

CISGENDER OR CIS

Someone whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. Non trans is also used by some people.

CROSS-DRESSER

Someone who wears the clothes usually expected to be worn by someone of the 'opposite' gender. Other terms include 'transvestite' (now becoming a dated term and disliked by some) and 'dual role'. A cross-dresser is unlikely to have a full-time identity as a member of their cross-dressed gender and typically does not seek medical intervention.

GAY

Usually refers to a man who has an emotional, romantic and/or sexual orientation towards men. Also a generic term for lesbian and gay sexuality - some women define themselves as gay rather than lesbian.

GENDER

Often expressed in terms of masculinity and femininity, gender is largely culturally determined and is assumed from the sex assigned at birth.

GENDER BINARY

A binary system allows only two things or states – for example, on/off. In terms of gender, it refers to the either/or categories of male/female that do not allow for, or recognise, other experiences of gender.

GENDER DYSPHORIA

Used to describe when a person experiences discomfort or distress because there's a mismatch between their sex assigned at birth and their gender identity. This is also the clinical diagnosis for someone who doesn't feel comfortable with the gender they were assigned at birth.

GENDER EXPRESSION

How a person chooses to outwardly express their gender, within the context of societal expectations of gender. A person who doesn't conform to societal expectations of gender may not, however, identify as trans.

GENDER FLUID

A person whose gender is not static and changes throughout their life. This could be on a daily/weekly/monthly basis and will be different for everyone.

GENDER IDENTITY

A person's innate sense of their own gender, whether male, female or something else (see non-binary below), which may or may not correspond to the sex assigned at birth.

GENDER REASSIGNMENT

Another way of describing a person's transition. To undergo gender reassignment can include undergoing some sort of medical intervention, but it can also mean changing names, pronouns, dressing differently and living in their self-identified gender. Gender reassignment is a characteristic that is protected by the Equality Act 2010, and it is further interpreted in the Equality Act 2010 approved code of practice.

GENDER RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE (GRC)

This enables trans people to be legally recognised in their affirmed gender and to be issued with a new birth certificate. Not all trans people will apply for a GRC and you currently have to be over 18 to apply. You don't need a GRC to change your gender markers at work or to change your gender on other documents such as your passport. Having a GRC means that information relating to an individual's gender history becomes 'protected information' and disclosure outside of exceptional circumstances (listed in the Gender Recognition Act 2004) is illegal.

INTERSEX

A term used to describe a person who may have the biological attributes of both sexes or whose biological attributes don't fit with societal assumptions about what constitutes male or female. Intersex people may identify as male, female or non-binary. Stonewall works with intersex groups to provide its partners and stakeholders information and evidence about areas of disadvantage experienced by intersex people but doesn't, after discussions with members of the intersex community, include intersex issues as part of its current remit at this stage.

LGBT

The acronym for lesbian, gay, bi and trans.

LESBIAN

Refers to a woman who has an emotional, romantic and/or sexual orientation towards women.

MISGENDERING

You misgender someone when you refer to them using a word, especially a pronoun or form of address, that doesn't correctly reflect the gender they identify with.

NEURODIVERSE

A concept where neurological differences are recognised and respected in the same way as any other human difference.

NON-BINARY

An umbrella term for a person who doesn't identify as only male or only female, or who may identify as both.

OUTED

When a lesbian, gay, bi or trans person's sexual orientation or gender identity is disclosed to someone else without their consent.

PERSON WITH A TRANS HISTORY

Someone who identifies as male or female or a man or woman, but was assigned differently at birth. This is increasingly used by people to acknowledge a trans past.

PRONOUN

Words we use to refer to people's gender in conversation - for example, 'he' or 'she'. Some people may prefer others to refer to them in gender neutral language and use pronouns such as they/their and ze/zir.

QUEER

A derogatory term for LGBT people in the past, it has now been reclaimed by LGBT young people in particular, who don't identify with traditional categories around sexual orientation and gender identity. Some people still find the term derogatory.

SEX

Assigned to a person on the basis of primary sex characteristics (genitalia) and reproductive functions.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

A person's emotional, romantic and/or sexual attraction to another person.

TRANS

An umbrella term to describe people whose gender isn't the same as, or doesn't sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth. Trans people may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms, including (but not limited to) transgender, transsexual, gender-queer (GQ), gender-fluid, non-binary, gendervariant, cross-dresser, genderless, agender, non-gendered, third gender, two-spirit, bi-gender, trans man, trans woman, trans masculine, trans feminine and neutrois.

TRANS MAN

A trans man is a female-to-male transgender person who was assigned female at birth but has a male gender identity.

TRANS WOMAN

A trans woman is a male-to-female transgender person who was assigned male at birth but has a female gender identity.

TRANSITIONING

The steps a trans person may take to live in the gender they identify with. Each person's transition will involve different things. For some this involves medical intervention, such as hormone therapy and surgeries, but not all trans people want or are able to have this. Transitioning may also involve things such as telling friends and family, dressing differently and changing official documents.

TRANSPHOBIA

The fear or dislike of someone based on their being trans, including the denial/refusal to accept their gender identity.

TRANSEXUAL

A more medical term (similar to homosexual) to refer to someone who transitioned to live in the 'opposite' gender to the one assigned at birth. A more common term in the past, it's generally been replaced by trans or transgender.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner for Surrey



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