**STONEWALL SCOTLAND**

**GLOSSARY OF LGBT TERMS**

**ALLY** - A (typically) straight and/or cis person who supports members of the LGBT community.

**ASEXUAL (OR ACE)** - Someone who does not experience sexual attraction.

**BI** - Bi is an umbrella term used to describe an emotional, romantic and/or sexual orientation towards more than one gender.

Bi people may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms, including, but not limited to, bisexual, pan, bi-curious, queer, and other non-monosexual identities.

**BIPHOBIA** - The fear or dislike of someone who identifies as bi based on prejudice or negative attitudes, beliefs or views about bi people. Biphobic bullying may be targeted at people who are, or who are perceived to be, bi.

**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.

**COMING OUT** - When a person first tells someone/others about their identity as lesbian, gay, bi or trans.

**DEADNAMING** - Calling someone by their birth name after they have changed their name. This term is often associated with trans people who have changed their name as part of their transition.
G

GAY - 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 DYSPHORIA - Used to describe when a person experiences discomfort or distress because there is 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 does not confirm to societal expectations of gender may not, however, identify as trans.

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 usually means to undergo 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. It is a term of much contention and is one that Stonewall’s Trans Advisory Group feels should be reviewed.

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 do not need a GRC to change your gender markers at work or to legally change your gender on other documents such as your passport.

GILLICK COMPETENCE - A term used in medical law to decide whether a child (under 16 years of age) is able to consent to his or her own medical treatment, without the need for parental permission or knowledge.

H

HETEROSEXUAL / STRAIGHT - Refers to a man who has an emotional, romantic and/or sexual orientation towards women or to a woman who has an emotional, romantic and/or sexual orientation towards men.

HOMOSEXUAL - This might be considered a more medical term used to describe someone who has an emotional romantic and/or sexual orientation towards someone of the same gender. The term ‘gay’ is now more generally used.

HOMOPHOBIA - The fear or dislike of someone, based on prejudice or negative attitudes, beliefs or views about lesbian, gay or bi people. Homophobic bullying may be targeted at people who are, or who are perceived to be, lesbian, gay or bi.

INTERSEX - A term used to describe a person who may have the biological attributes of both sexes or whose biological attributes do not 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 does not, 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. |
| **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 people whose gender identity doesn’t sit comfortably with ‘man’ or ‘woman’. Non-binary identities are varied and can include people who identify with some aspects of binary identities, while others reject them entirely. |
| **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. |
| **PAN** | Refers to a person whose emotional, romantic and/or sexual attraction towards others is not limited by sex or gender. |
| **PASSING** | If someone is regarded, at a glance, to be a cisgender man or cisgender woman. |
| **Cisgender** refers to someone whose gender identity matches the sex they were ‘assigned’ at birth. This might include physical gender cues (hair or clothing) and/or behaviour which is historically or culturally associated with a particular gender. |
| **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** | In the past a derogatory term for LGBT individuals. The term has now been reclaimed by LGBT young people in particular who don’t identify with traditional categories around gender identity and sexual orientation but is still viewed to be derogatory by some. |
| **QUESTIONING** | The process of exploring your own sexual orientation and/or gender identity. |
| **SEX** | Assigned to a person on the basis of primary sex characteristics (genitalia) and reproductive functions. Sometimes the terms ‘sex’ and ‘gender’ are interchanged to mean ‘male’ or ‘female’. |
| **SEXUAL ORIENTATION** | A person’s emotional, romantic and/or sexual attraction to another person. |
| **TRANS** | An umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not 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, gender-variant, crossdresser, genderless, agender, nongender, third gender, two-spirit, bi-gender, trans man, trans woman, trans masculine, trans feminine and neutrois. |
| **TRANSGENDER MAN** | A term used to describe someone who is assigned female at birth but identifies and lives as a man. This may be shortened to trans man, or FTM, an abbreviation for female-to-male. |
| **TRANSGENDER WOMAN** | A term used to describe someone who is assigned male at birth but identifies and lives as a woman. This may be shortened to trans woman, or MTF, an abbreviation for male-to-female. |
| **TRANSITIONING** | The steps a trans person may take to live in the gender with which they identify. 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 also might involve things such as telling friends and family, dressing differently and changing official documents.

**TRANSPHOBIA** - The fear or dislike of someone based on the fact they are trans, including the denial/refusal to accept their gender identity.

**TRANSSEXUAL** - This was used in the past as a more medical term (similarly to homosexual) to refer to someone who transitioned to live in the ‘opposite’ gender to the one assigned at birth.

This term is still used by some although many people prefer the term trans or transgender.

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**FURTHER SUPPORT**

**LGBT ORGANISATIONS IN SCOTLAND**

**Stonewall Scotland**
www.stonewallscotland.org.uk

**BiScotland**
wordpress.biscotland.org/

**LGBT Youth Scotland**
www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/

**Scottish Trans Alliance**
www.scottishtrans.org

**TIE Campaign (Time for Inclusive Education)**
www.tiecampaign.co.uk

**Equality Network**
https://www.equality-network.org

**LGBT Health and Wellbeing**
https://www.lgbthealth.org.uk

For a more comprehensive list of LGBT organisations, including regional LGBT groups, consult: https://www.equality-network.org/resources/directory/