

What is the Expanded LGBT Acronym? And What Does It Stand for?

by Joy D'Souza, Huffington Post Canada
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http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2016/06/27/entire-lgbt-acronym_n_10616392.html

(Transcript from an animated video)

The LGBT acronym first appeared in the 1990's as a more inclusive term than "gay community." Today, LGBT has grown to include many more groups. So let's break it down...

LGBTQQIP2SAA

Lesbian

Female-identified person who is sexually and romantically attracted to other women

Gay

Male-identified person who is sexually and romantically attracted to other men

Bisexual

Once defined as romantically or sexually attracted to men and women, many bisexuals today say they attracted to all genders and/or sexes

Transgender

A person whose gender identity/gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth

Queer

An umbrella term that includes all sexual and gender minorities, including those that do not find into, or reach beyond, the LGBT terms

Questioning

Someone who is exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity

Intersex

People born with anatomy or chromosomal makeup that doesn't correspond to male or female

Pansexual

Can be attracted to members of all gender identities and biological sexes

2-Spirited

A term some indigenous people use to describe their gender, sexual or spiritual identity

Asexual

Does not experience sexual attraction, but can have romantic, emotional or aesthetic attraction to another person

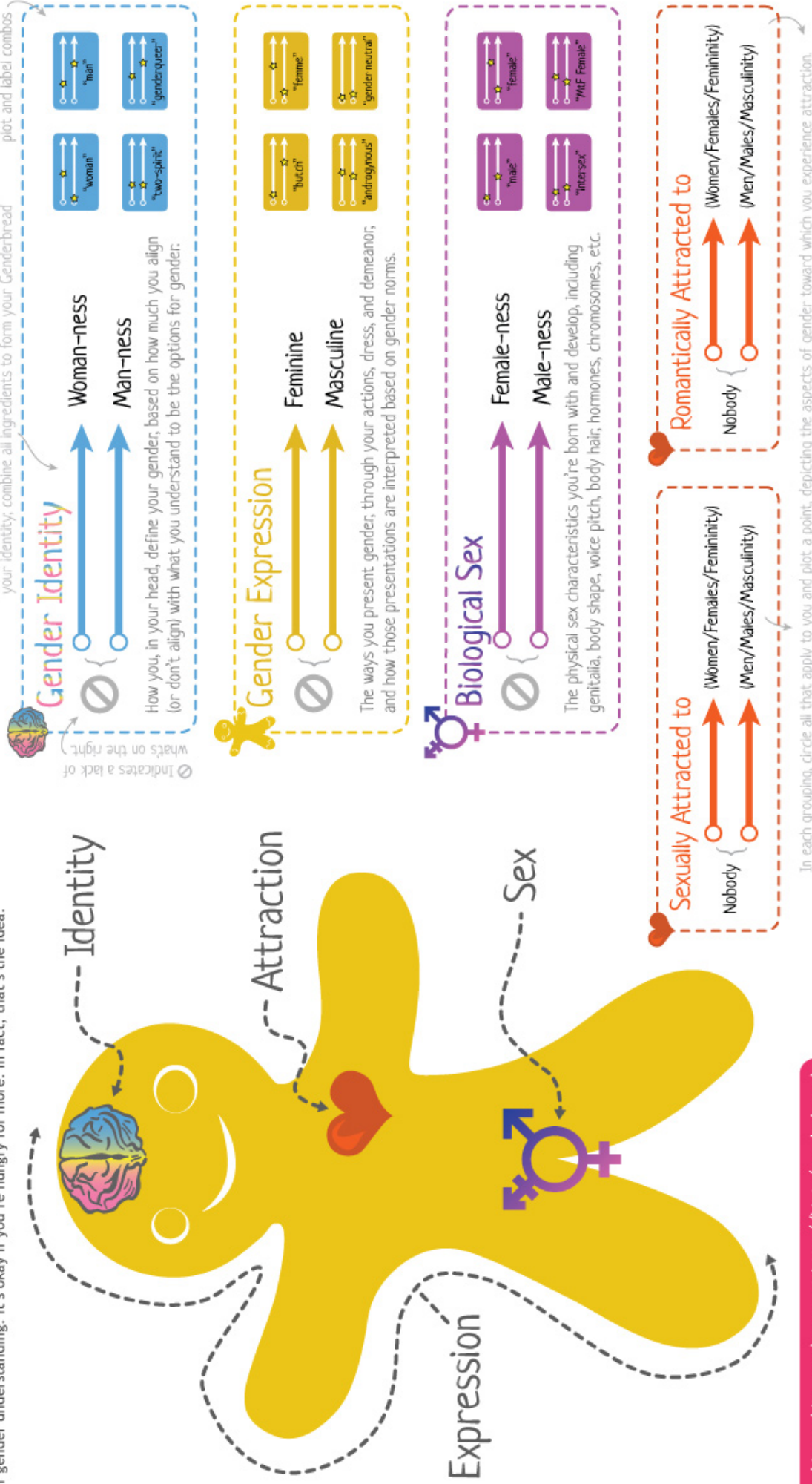
Ally

Does not identify as LGBTQ, but supports the rights and safety of those who do.

The Genderbread Person v3.3

by its pronounced **METROsexual**.com

Gender is one of those things everyone thinks they understand, but most people don't. Like *Inception*. Gender isn't binary. It's not either/or. In many cases it's both/and. A bit of this, a dash of that. This tasty little guide is meant to be an appetizer for gender understanding. It's okay if you're hungry for more. In fact, that's the idea.



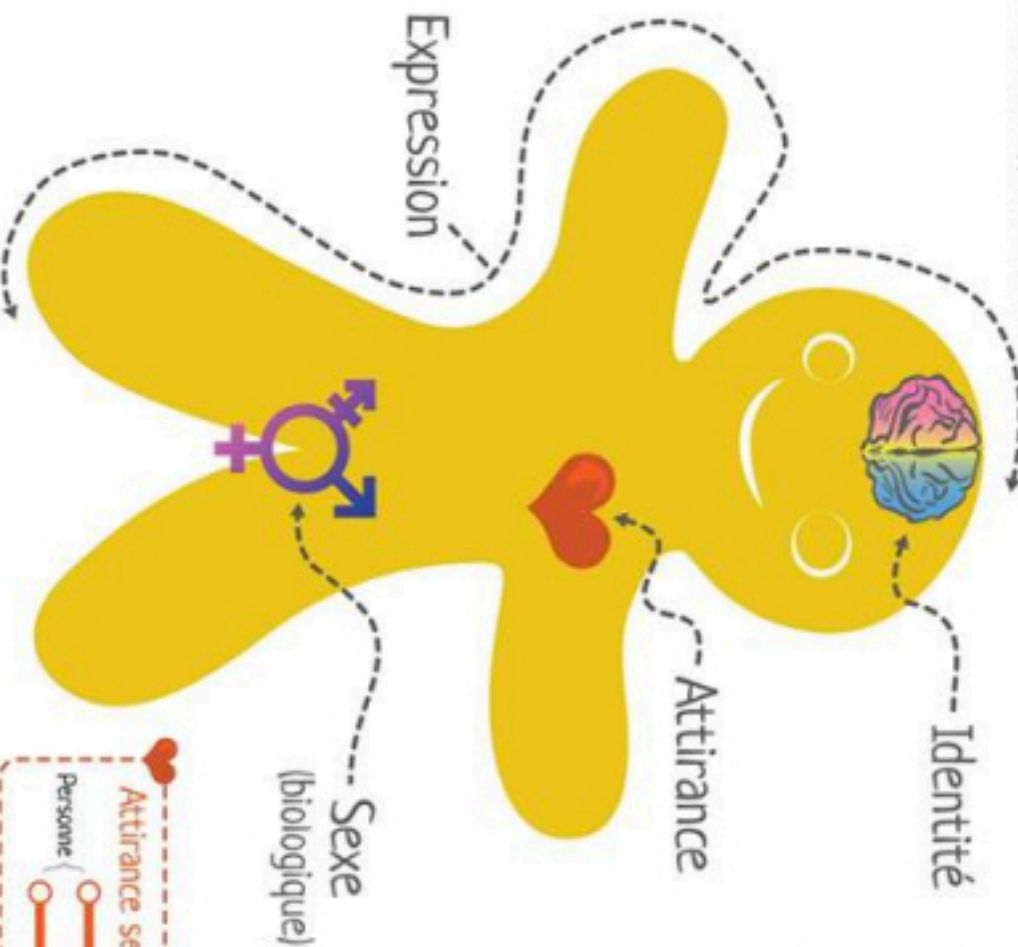
Personne Gingembre v3.3



Translated by

by *its pronounced* METROsexual.com

Le genre est l'un de ces concepts que tout le monde croit comprendre, mais que la plupart ignore. Le genre n'est pas binaire. Ce n'est pas - un ou l'autre -. Dans plusieurs cas, il s'agit - des deux et plus -. Une pincée de ceci, un soupçon de cela. Ce délicieux petit guide est conçu comme un hors-d'œuvre afin de mieux comprendre les genres. S'il vous ouvre l'appétit, c'est tant mieux.



Indique un manque de ce qui est sur la droite

Desirez-vous point dans les deux continuum de chaque catégorie pour représenter fréquemment posséder votre identité et combinez tous les ingrédients pour former votre personne globale. (ajoute une identité)

Identité du genre

Comment vous, dans votre esprit, définissez votre genre selon votre conformité (ou non conformité) à ce que vous pensez être les options de votre genre.

<input type="checkbox"/> Féminité <input type="checkbox"/> Masculinité	<input type="checkbox"/> Femme <input type="checkbox"/> Homme
<input type="checkbox"/> Féminité <input type="checkbox"/> Masculinité	<input type="checkbox"/> Femme <input type="checkbox"/> Homme

Expression du genre

La manière dont vous manifestez votre genre par vos actions, votre habilement et votre attitude, et comment ces manifestations sont interprétées selon les normes de genre.

<input type="checkbox"/> Féminin <input type="checkbox"/> Masculin	<input type="checkbox"/> Femme <input type="checkbox"/> Homme
<input type="checkbox"/> Féminin <input type="checkbox"/> Masculin	<input type="checkbox"/> Femme <input type="checkbox"/> Homme

Sexe biologique

Les caractéristiques sexuelles à votre naissance et pendant votre croissance, incluant les organes sexuels, la forme du corps, le ton de la voix, la pilosité, les hormones, les chromosomes, etc.

<input type="checkbox"/> Féminité <input type="checkbox"/> Masculinité	<input type="checkbox"/> Femme <input type="checkbox"/> Homme
<input type="checkbox"/> Féminité <input type="checkbox"/> Masculinité	<input type="checkbox"/> Femme <input type="checkbox"/> Homme

Attrance sexuelle envers

Personne

Femme/féminine/féminité
 Homme/masculin/masculinité

Attrance émotionnelle envers

Personne

Femme/féminine/féminité
 Homme/masculin/masculinité

Vous restez sur votre faim? Apprenez-en plus à <http://bit.ly/genderbread>

Pour chaque groupe, essayez toutes les options qui s'ajoutent à vous et dessinez le point qui décrit les aspects du genre qui vous attire.

How we got here from Gay

[\(http://msmagazine.com/blog/2013/10/01/lgbpttqqiiaa-how-we-got-here-from-gay/\)](http://msmagazine.com/blog/2013/10/01/lgbpttqqiiaa-how-we-got-here-from-gay/)

Gerard Koskovich, a curator at the The GLBT History Museum in San Francisco, remembers when the term LGBT first came about (the 1990s), and has seen it spread around the world to describe lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Today's the perfect time to recall the acronym's origins, since it's the start of National LGBT History Month.

The word “gay” emerged as underground slang referring to both men and women homosexuals in the 1940s and 50s, but lesbians soon felt left out because people tended to associate gay with men. Gay women then claimed “lesbian” as their identification during the '60s and '70s feminist movements, and the common expression became “gay and lesbian” to describe all queer folk. Women hoped the change would give lesbians more visibility and boost their status to more than a footnote to gay men, says Koskovich.

Bisexual and transgender people were added to the description in the late 1990s—long after activists first demanded inclusion. Rightfully, they had felt excluded because bisexual people weren't gay and “transgender” refers to gender identity, not sexual orientation. Among many others, bisexual activist Maggie Rubenstein and transgender activist Susan Stryker pushed organizations already representing their identities to honor them in their names, and the term GLBT emerged as a common term used through the early 2000s.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender identities have long been historically tied. In the 19th century, people believed sexual desire could only happen between a male and female, so they saw gay couples as having a male and female component. They referred to some queer people as the “third sex,” meaning a person having a woman's soul in a man's body, or vice versa.

With broad social changes over the next 200 years, many finally began to see gay and transgender as separate categories, but they stayed intertwined. Even in the 1990s, doctors used hormones and gender-reassignment surgery to try to “cure” homosexuality. People designated female at birth wanting to physically transition had to prove they wouldn’t end up gay men, says Koskovich. Because of this, trans activists such as Lou Sullivan, the gay founder of FTM International, sought out doctors who wouldn’t refuse to prescribe hormones or perform gender-reassignment surgery because of a patient’s sexual orientation, and today the U.S. medical field doesn’t bar people from physically transitioning because of their sexual orientation.

LGBT eventually replaced GLBT as the most common term in the mid-2000s, perhaps to again give lesbians more visibility. But people constantly need new words or letters to describe emerging identities and social roles, notes Koskovich, so today there is no single correct term. Some use the term LGBTIQ to include intersex, queer and questioning people, or go even longer—to LGBPTTQQIIAA+ (meaning lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersex, intergender, asexual, ally and beyond). Others use queer as an umbrella term, which is easier to say and fun to throw in the face of oppressors. But it also brings back an invisibility problem for lesbians, bisexual and transgender people. Also, labeling an organization “queer” can isolate and be hurtful to older people who still view it as the hateful insult they faced during the ’50s and ’60s.

“[Naming is] ultimately a discussion about respect,” says Koskovich, “a discussion about who is given visibility, a discussion about how power is distributed. ... It’s not just a debate about an acronym or a set of terminology. That’s the proxy for discussion about social change, social power, respect, self respect, visibility—a variety of things that are absolutely essential to people’s ability to live in the world and feel that their experience and desire and sense of self is being honored.”

Amy Sueyoshi, associate dean of ethnic studies at San Francisco State University, and Rich Wandel, archivist and historian at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in NYC, also provided valuable insights for this story.