

LGBT DEFINITIONS*

Bias-Motivated Incident:

A bias-motivated incident is a non-criminal act (e.g., name-calling, verbal abuse, etc.) motivated by bias, hate, or prejudice toward another person's real or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, disability or gender.

Gay:

Grades K-8: Gay refers to a man who loves another man or a woman who loves another woman.

Grades 9-12: Gay refers to a person who is attracted to members of the same sex (a woman might prefer to call herself lesbian).

GSA:

GSA is an abbreviation for Gay-Straight Alliance, an alliance of students dedicated to fighting homophobia on campus and improving the lives of LGBT students.

Gender:

Gender covers a wide range of issues relevant to all people. It relates to femininity and masculinity and it includes the following pieces:

Gender identity--one's understanding or feeling about whether one is emotionally or spiritually female or male or both or neither, regardless of one's biological sex.

Gender characteristics--characteristics such as facial hair or vocal pitch.

Gender expression--the way a person expresses her or his gender, through gestures, movement, dress, and grooming.

Gender nonconformity--means not expressing gender or not having gender characteristics or a gender identity that conforms to others' expectations. Much, perhaps most, of the harassment LGBT students experience is related to gender and gender nonconformity.

Hate Crime:

A hate crime is a criminal act (e.g., graffiti, threatened violence, hitting, etc.) motivated by bias, hate, or prejudice towards another person's real or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, disability or gender.

Heterosexism:

Heterosexism is the belief that heterosexuality is normal as opposed to homosexuality or bisexuality.

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| Heterosexual: | Heterosexual is the clinical synonym for <i>straight</i> . Grades K-8: Heterosexual refers to a man who loves a woman or a woman who loves a man. Grades 9-12: Heterosexual refers to a person who is attracted to members of the opposite sex. |
| Homophobia: | Homophobia is a term that is often used generally to describe a strong negative bias toward LGBT people, but the term isn't inclusive in its origins and strict meaning, so you may want to use anti-LGBT bias. |
| Intersexed: | Intersexed is an adjective that describes a person who is born with genitals or chromosomes that are not clearly male or female. At least 1 in 2,000 babies are born with genitals that make it difficult to determine their sex. The archaic term is <i>hermaphrodite</i> . |
| Lesbian: | Lesbian is the preferred term for gay women. |
| LGBT: | LGBT is the string of letters that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. Some people use LGBTQ, to include youth who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity and haven't settled on a label. You might see even more letters on occasion: roll with it and ask what they stand for. |
| Sexual Orientation: | Sexual orientation is the term that describes whether a person is attracted to members of the same sex (gay or lesbian), to members of the opposite sex (heterosexual), or to members of both sexes (bisexual). |
| Transgender: | Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity, gender characteristics, or gender expressions cross traditionally accepted gender roles, and includes transsexuals, transvestites, intersex people, and other gender nonconformists. |

*Developed by Safe Haven

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