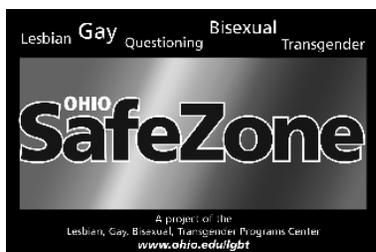


Where can I find more information?

For more information on LGBT issues; questions regarding OHIO SafeZone, SpeakOUT!, and campus organizations; or to check-out a book, magazine, or video from our Resource Library; visit the LGBT Center.



The OHIO SafeZone project is a voluntary, educational effort to support LGBT & Questioning students, faculty, and staff at Ohio University by attending a two hour workshop and by displaying a SafeZone card. If you are an LGBT supporter, it is time to act!

SpeakOUT!

Speaker's Bureau & Education Project

SpeakOUT! is a dynamic speaker's bureau and education project that has been assisting class instructors, student organizations, and resident assistants with their speaker/education needs for years. Formats include a panel presentation, Coming Out 101, or tailor-made presentations.

Resource Library

Our Resource Library is a collection of books, magazines, and videos on a variety of topics including LGBT history, legislation, biographies, fiction, and religion in relation to LGBT concerns, as well as coming out resources. Check it out today!

Campus Resources

If you are searching for further definitions of terms, check out the LGBT Center's website!
www.ohio.edu/lgbt.

A COMMON VOCABULARY

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Center

**354 Baker Center
Ohio University
Athens, OH 45701**

**740.593.0239
www.ohio.edu/lgbt**



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

Remember back in elementary school when you overheard someone call someone else a “queer,” “fag,” or “dyke”? Who would have thought that the LGBT community would have used those words to describe themselves? But some do use “queer,” “dyke,” and “fag” to refer to themselves. Confused? Read on; this is your quick guide to common LGBT vocabulary!

Advocate: A person who actively works to end intolerance, educates others, and supports LGBT issues, concerns, equal rights legislation, etc.

Ally: A heterosexual or LGBT person who supports LGBT people.

Bisexual: A person who is emotionally, physically, spiritually, and/or sexually attracted to members of more than one gender. Also can be referred to as omnisexual and pansexual.

Closeted: One who has not “come out of the closet” or who has come out to only a few people. People who may not be comfortable enough with their sexuality or gender identity to share it with others.

Coming Out: The life-long process of discovering, defining, and proclaiming one’s (non-heterosexual) sexuality or gender identity.

Drag: Queen: a person who consciously performs femininity, sometimes in an exaggerated/theatrical manner, usually in a show or theatre setting; **King:** a person who consciously performs masculinity, sometimes in an exaggerated/theatrical manner, usually in a show or theatre setting.

Dyke: Derogatory slang term used to identify lesbians. This term has been embraced and reinvented as a positive, proud, political identifier when used by some lesbians among and about themselves. *See: faggot, queer.*

Faggot: Derogatory slang term used to identify gay men. This term has been embraced and reclaimed as a positive, proud, political identifier when used by some gay men among and about themselves. *See dyke, queer.*

Gay: Usually, but not always, refers to homosexual men. Also used as an umbrella term for the LGBT community.

Gender Identity: How people perceive their gender and how they define themselves. It may or may not agree with societal gender roles outlined for their sex. Can coincide with what doctors and/or society have prescribed for them or can also refer to a multitude of expressions, like femme, butch, androgynous, etc.

Gender Role: The societal and cultural expectations of people based upon their biological sex.

Hate Motivated Offenses: Assault, rape, arson, and murder are crimes under any circumstance, but when victims of such crimes are targeted simply because of their affiliation (or perceived affiliation) with a minority group, the FBI considers these crimes ‘hate crimes.’ In some states, hate crimes carry an additional penalty beyond the standard penalty for assault, murder, etc. Also known as “gay-bashing,” acts of intolerance, or hate crimes.

Heterosexual: A person who has emotional, physical, spiritual, and/or sexual attractions to persons of the “opposite sex.” The sexuality that dominant discourse prescribes.

Heterosexual Privilege: Advantages that come with heterosexuality in this society and culture, such as marriage and all of the benefits that comes along with it, acceptance from family, safety, and acceptance in a chosen career field.

Heterosexism: The belief that all people are heterosexual, the assumption and/or belief that heterosexual relationships and behavior are superior, and the actions based on this assumption.

Homosexual: A person who has emotional, physical, spiritual, and/or sexual attractions to persons of the “same sex.” More of a medical term, it is considered outdated when referring to gay people or communities.

Homophobia: Fear, anger, discomfort, intolerance, or lack of acceptance toward LGB people, or experiencing these feelings about one’s own non-heterosexual orientation.

Intersexed: People born with “unexpected” genitals. Formerly referred to as hermaphrodites, intersexed people are not easily categorized as male or female because of ambiguous genitalia. Most intersexed people do not possess “both” sets of genitals, but rather a blending or a different appearance that is medically unacceptable to most doctors. Intersexuality is fairly common. Many who are intersexed believe that early childhood surgical intervention is both unnecessary and cruel, and they advocate counseling and support for children and families of children with this condition.

Lesbian: A woman who has emotional, physical, spiritual, and/or sexual attractions to other women.

Outing: To declare a person’s identity publicly; people can out themselves, or someone can out a person either with or without permission.

Pride: Not being ashamed of oneself, and/or showing pride to others by coming out, marching, etc. Being honest and comfortable.

Rainbow Flag: In 1978, San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker designed a flag for the city’s Gay Freedom celebration, and LGBT movements worldwide have since adopted it as a symbol of gay identity and pride. It has six stripes in the traditional form but can be seen as streamers, etc. which run in the order of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The flag also symbolizes diversity within unity.

Questioning: The process of exploring one’s own sexual or gender identity, including but not limited to one’s upbringing, expectations from others (family, friends, church, etc.), and inner motivation.

Queer: Derogatory slang term used to identify LGBT people. This term has been embraced and reinvented as a positive, proud, political identifier when used by some LGBT people among and about themselves. *See dyke, faggot.*

Same gender loving (SGL): A term from the African American/Black LGBT community and used by people of color who may see ‘gay’ and ‘lesbian’ as terms of the White LGBT community.

Sexual Orientation: To whom a person is erotically attracted. Not to be confused with sexual preference, what a person likes to do sexually.

Stonewall: On June 28, 1969, NYC police attempted a routine raid on the Stonewall Inn, a working class gay and lesbian bar in Greenwich Village. Unexpectedly, the patrons resisted, and the incident escalated into a riot that continued for several days. Most people look to this event as the beginning of the American Gay Liberation Movement and all subsequent LGBT movements.

Transgender: An umbrella term for people who transcend society’s view of gender and biological sex as necessarily fixed, unmoving, and following from one’s biological sex. They view gender on a spectrum rather than as a polarized, either-or construct. This can range from identification to cross dressing, undergoing hormone therapy, sex reassignment surgery and/or other forms of dress/presentation. Transgender people can include transsexuals, cross-dressers, drag kings/queens, masculine women, feminine men, and all those who defy what society tells them is appropriate for their “gender.” Political trans activists seek to create more space around gender and to create a society where variation in gender expression/presentation is more widely accepted.

Transsexual: People whose core gender identities are “opposite” their assigned sex. Transsexuals may live as the opposite sex, undergo hormone therapy, and/or have sex reassignment surgery to “match” their bodies with their gender identities.

Triangle: Pink Triangle: This was a symbol used by the Nazi’s to label gay men in the concentration camps. **Black Triangle:** This was a symbol used by the Nazi’s to label lesbians and other women deemed ‘antisocial’ in the concentration camps. Both have since been adopted as symbols of identity and pride.

Information Provided by:
Ohio University’s LGBT Center’s Staff; Florida State University’s SafeZone, Plymouth State College’s Task Force Against Homophobia SafeZone handout, Virginia Association of College and University Housing Officers (VACUHO) SafeZone Project handout.

*More definitions available on the
LGBT Center’s Resource Page: www.ohio.edu/lgbt*