

# LGBTQI & Kink 101 High Tea: *a discussion workshop*

## —*Ettiquette*

- If it isn't yours, don't touch without permission — this includes touching people.
- Show respect for other guests and players and conversely they should respect you.
- Being friendly and willing to chat never hurts.
- Try not to interfere in scenes unless invited, and if you see something that doesn't seem right in the context of the party, bring it to the attention of the owner/host or DMs. Don't hold loud conversations (or, ideally, any conversations) close to where people are trying to play and stay in their own headspace. Be aware of what toys people around you are using so you don't walk through somebody's backswing space.
- Use discretion before, during, and after. If you meet a friend at the event you know from vanilla life, do not share any of the details of that vanilla life connection with third parties unless you know your friend is comfortable with that. Likewise, when running into people from the scene event afterwards, it is not usually polite to tell your vanilla friends that you met such-and-such person at the bondage club the other night.
- You don't have to watch. If you are unnerved, appalled or repulsed by a particular scene, it's perfectly fine to go someplace else in the venue, or outside for a fresh air break. Just discreetly excuse yourself. However, you also don't have to avoid watching. If the scene is hot, feel free to observe it, if it's done in public space. Just do so from a polite distance.
- **You are *never* under any obligation to play.**

## —*Communication is the key*

**Don't assume; ask.** Just as you have no obligation to play with anyone, they have no obligation to play with you either. Be aware that the person you're approaching may have some specific reason for not wanting to play. For example, they may be involved in an exclusive master/slave relationship, or they may not want to play with someone they don't already know, or they may simply not be in the mood to play at the moment.

However, assuming you meet someone who is potentially interested in playing, you need to communicate with each other and establish some ground rules.

The first step is the same as it would be in any other type of social interaction: establish mutual interest. This can be done in a variety of ways, depending on the situation. For example, eye contact and casual small-talk are a good way to break the ice and clearly define the roles each of you likes to adopt.

What happens from that point on is entirely up to you and your new-found play partner. And that brings us to the subject of negotiation.

It's important to establish some guidelines as to what type of activities you share an interest in, as well as any personal limitations and expectations. In particular, you should identify any medical conditions or other potential problem areas. You may also want to agree on a set of safewords that can be used to slow down or stop the festivities if they begin to exceed either player's limits.

### —Asking questions

People love to take people's 'cherries' so feel free to ask someone if you want to try something. Likewise if you see something in a scene you have questions about or would like to try go up to the person and ask them. In these instances remember not only to wait for the scene to finish but also to give some time and space for the aftercare to be completed too.

Adapted from <http://www.ehbc.ca/resources> & <http://fetlife.com/groups/133> on FetLife.

### —Acronyms & definitions

- *Sex* is biological, relating to chromosomes and genitalia.
- *Gender* is psychological, and far more complex and abstract than sex but supersedes sex.
- *Orientation* is who someone is attracted to.
- *Straight* means someone whose sex, gender, and orientation all match up and are at either one extreme or the other. *Straight* is also an orientation term (this meaning of straight is often called *heteronormative*).
- *Queer* is an umbrella term covering anyone who isn't heteronormative. Any one or more of sex, gender, and orientation is either not at one of the extremes or not aligned with the others. *Queer* was formerly an offensive term, but has been reclaimed by newer generations as a positive term; older generations, however, may still find it offensive.
- *Questioning* means anyone who is unsure of their sex, gender, or orientation.
- *Intersex* is any condition under which the body is neither strictly male nor strictly female. This may be caused by ambiguous genitalia, a hormone imbalance or an uncommon set of chromosomes.
- *Cisgender* (CG) refers to someone whose sex and gender match the gender they've been assigned. In other words, someone who is not transgendered.
- *Transgender* (TG) has both a general and a specific meaning. Generally, a transgendered person is one who feels that *their biological sex is an inaccurate or incomplete description of themselves* or one who *transcends the social stereotypes of gender*. Specifically, transgender means one's sex does not correspond to their gender, whatever that may be.

- *Transsexual* (TS) refers to someone whose sex is *directly* ‘opposite’ to their gender; in other words, their body is male but their gender is female, or their body is female but their gender is male. This is not the same thing as transgender, since *different* (what transgender means) and *opposite* (what transsexual means) are not necessarily the same. Black and white, for example, are both different and opposite. Black and red, however, are different but not opposite. As we will see, gender is not black and white. Transsexuality is **not** an extreme form of homosexuality, since gender and orientation are independent, and transsexuals may have any orientation. (NB: transsexual with one s is considered offensive).
- *Male-to-female* (MTF or M2F) refers to anyone who is genetically male, but who identifies as female. They may be at any point in transition.
- *Female-to-male* (FTM or F2M) refers to anyone who is genetically female, but who identifies as male. They may be at any point in transition.
- *Genderqueer* (QG) refers to anyone whose gender is something other than male or female (something in-between, something else entirely, or some combination of several genders).
- *Androgyne* refers to someone whose gender is *between* male and female, and blends both of them together.
- *Bigender* refers to someone whose gender is *both* male *and* female.
- *Agender* refers to someone who has *no gender at all*.
- *Butch* refers to a relatively traditional masculine presentation.
- *Femme* refers to a relatively traditional feminine presentation.
- *Androgynous* refers to someone presenting as between male and female. Androgynous refers to how someone *presents*, while androgyne refers to how someone *identifies*.
- *Straight* means someone attracted to the ‘opposite’ gender: a male attracted to females or a female attracted to males.
- *Gay* means someone attracted to the same gender: a male attracted to males or a female attracted to females.
- *Lesbian* means a female attracted to other females. A male-to-female transsexual attracted to women is a lesbian, since gender is what’s relevant.
- *Dyke* is a slang term for a butch lesbian. Like fag, it is sometimes used jokingly within the gay community, but outside of that community is considered offensive.
- *Chapstick lesbian* is term for an androgynous or butch lesbian. It generally carries no offensive connotations.

- *Lipstick lesbian* is a counterpart to *chapstick lesbian*, meaning a *femme lesbian*.
- *Bisexual* means someone attracted to both men and women.
- *Pansexual* means someone attracted to the personalities of others above their gender, race, etc..
- *Heteroflexible* means someone attracted mostly to those of the 'opposite' gender, but who may occasionally develop relationships with those of the same gender.
- *Homoflexible* means someone attracted mostly to those of the same gender, but who may occasionally develop relationships with those of the 'opposite' gender.
- *Polyamorous* means being open to, desiring, or having more than two people in a mutual, loving relationship. Everybody involved must approve of the polyamorous relationship.
- *Polygamy* means someone married or otherwise spiritually united with more than one person in a relationship. It is not necessarily loving and mutual, since not everybody involved necessarily agrees with it; therefore, it is not the same thing as a polyamorous relationship. It has historically been used to refer to a man in a relationship with many women. Polyamorous people avoid this term because of its negative connotations.
- *Polyfidelity* means a type of polyamorous relationship characterized by strong internal commitments. Some use it as a less stigmatized word for polygamy, while others use it more specifically to refer to a relationship where new members can only be added with the active consent of all those who are already involved.
- *Polygynous* refers to a relationship with more than one woman.
- *Polyandrous* refers to a relationship with more than one man.
- *Asexual* means someone not attracted to anyone.
- *Trisexual* means someone who will try anything once. This was originally a joke term, but some may claim it as part of their identity.

Sex, gender, orientation terms taken from an amazing pdf found at <http://kreativekorp.com/miscpages/gender/SGO.pdf>

## —Roles

- **BDSM**: a compound acronym describing the mutually consensual lifestyle between two or more adults — the acronym is formed by **B&D** (Bondage & Discipline), **D&S** (Domination & Submission), **s&M** (Sadism and Masochism).

- *Dominant, Dom, Domme, Domina, Dominatrix*: the person who is given control in a consensual exchange of power. Domme, Domina. and Dominatrix refers to women. Dominant, or Dom can refer to either gender.
- *Switch*: a person who enjoys taking either side in SM role or physical play: i.e. top or bottom, Dom or sub.
- *Submissive, Sub*: one who surrenders control of their body and behavior (within pre-defined limitations) to another for erotic play.
- *Masochist*: someone who derives pleasure, especially sexual pleasure, from pain or humiliation. The word comes from the name of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch (1839–95) the Austrian writer (and masochist) who described what he enjoyed so well in his novel, “Venus in Furs”.
- *Master*: the Oxford English Dictionary describes a ‘master’ as ‘a person who has dominance over others’ or ‘a skilled practitioner of a particular art’. Those two concepts, dominance and skill, are brought together in the use of the word ‘Master’ in a BDSM context. The title may sometimes be used within a D/s relationship as a loving tribute by a submissive to the skill of her partner or it may define a relationship in which the submissive sees herself as a ‘slave’ who is owned by her ‘master’. Essentially though the word describes how someone else regards you, not how you regard yourself.
- *Mistress*: (in the BDSM context) a female dominant.
- *Slave*: **1.** In the scene community sometimes used loosely as another word for submissive; **2.** a submissive involved in a committed relationship incorporating a shared slave/master fantasy.
- *Top*: one who takes the active role in physical scene, but not necessarily emotional/mental control.
- *Bottom*: a person who receives pain or sensation. There is no implied domination or submission. The term ‘bottom’ includes anyone who is on the receiving end of BDSM activities like bondage, corporal punishment, spanking etc. The words are sometimes also used as verbs (as in to ‘top’ someone, or to ‘bottom’ for someone).
- *Fetishist*: a looser term describing someone who fetishises something or somethings. The term has gained popularity in newcomers to BDSM due to its broad nature.
- *Kinkster*: similar to *fetishist*, a kinkster is the colloquial term for someone who engages in kinky (i.e. non-normative, cf. vanilla) sexual behaviour.
- *Sadist*: a person who derives pleasure, especially sexual gratification, from inflicting pain, suffering or humiliation on others. The word comes from the name of Donatien Alphonse François, Marquis de Sade (1740–1814). He was the author of several sexually explicit works which explored the darker side of sexuality and for which he spent much of his life imprisoned.
- *Sadomasochist*: one who enjoys advanced sexual practices incorporating the consensual use of pain, humiliation, and power exchange for erotic enjoyment.

- *Masochist*: The erotic enjoyment of pain, humiliation, and/or of being dominated. One who enjoys pain, etc.. Sometimes the terms are used to describe one who enjoys heavier pain.

### —*What to Wear?*

- When in doubt, basic black works every time — black jeans or skirt, black shirt, black shoes or boots. Simple or ornate is a matter of your personal preference.
- Lingerie is easy to come by, often inexpensively. Adult lingerie shops often stock a variety of more ‘daring’ styles, but prices will rise accordingly, and sizes are often more limited.
- Interesting or adaptable leather goods will often surface in second-hand shops, from boots and shoes to jackets, vests, hats, and so on.
- Body harnesses run the gamut from rigid devices designed to take a lot of use and abuse, to decorative drapes of leather straps, or chains of varying grades (or combinations of both).
- Restraints are a very common item, and range from wrist/ankle cuffs to collars and leashes, and so on. These are often worn in conjunction with body harnesses, and may be joined to each other by straps or chains.
- ‘Peekaboo’ clothing refers to anything which covers the body without necessarily obscuring the view of it. This may involve anything from semi-transparent ‘mundane’ clothing to lacy lingerie, bodysuits with zippers to reveal breasts or genitals, to sheer/transparent garments.
- Costumes and uniforms — nurse, school girl/boy, police, military, doctor, etc..
- Accessories: for many, this may simply involve wearing a crop or flogger from a belt loop, or dangling a set of cuffs somewhere accessible. This may involve ‘props’ if you are wearing a costume (sunglasses and hats for those in uniform, knee-high socks or teddy bears for little girls, and so on). A good pair of high heeled shoes or boots are a good addition for women and cross-dressing men; heavy boots, either western or Doc Martin-style, are common for men. Personally, I would rather see bare feet than loafers or sneakers and socks!

Retrieved and adapted from <http://www.ehbc.ca/resources>

### —*Kink & the Law*

Having more than one married spouse (bigamy) is not legal in Australia, one can however have as many defacto partners as one can stand to get along with.

The Prohibited Weapons Act for the ACT lists daggers (edge play/knife play/blood play), finger claws, whips, cat-o’-nine tails, and batons.