

Social Justice Watch 0208

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What is Bisexuality?

Bisexuality is a broad and inclusive term describing attraction which is not limited to one gender. This could mean being attracted to two, multiple, or all genders. Bisexuals can be attracted to different genders in different ways and could have a preference for a certain gender.

Bisexual activist Robyn Och's definition of bisexuality is: "I call myself bisexual because I acknowledge that I have in myself the potential to be attracted - romantically and/or sexually - to people of more than one sex and/or gender, not necessarily at the same time, not necessarily in the same way, and not necessarily to the same degree."



What is Pansexuality?

Pansexuality describes someone who feels an attraction towards people, regardless of their gender identities. Pansexuals may refer to themselves as being 'gender-blind' as gender and sex are not determining factors in their attraction to others.



So... They're Basically The Same?



Not quite. There is quite a bit of overlap due to both terms referring to attraction to more than one gender, but bisexuals and pansexuals experience attraction in different ways. While pansexuals do not consider gender or sex a factor in their attraction to others, bisexuals may have a preference for a certain gender, or love different genders in different ways.

But what it means to be bisexual or pansexual is also largely up to the person who identifies that way. As with any sexuality, whatever word feels best is best.





Is Pansexuality More Inclusive to Trans and Non-Binary People?

As the prefix 'bi' means two, bisexuality is seen by some as perpetuating a gender binary. Although some bisexuals are not attracted to non-binary people, many are, and bisexuality is not as black and white as being attracted to just cis-men and cis-women.

Furthermore, trans-men are men, and trans-women are women, so bisexuality involving attraction to just men and women is trans-inclusive. The main difference between the two sexualities is how attraction is experienced by a person rather than who a person is attracted to.



Here's the TLDR:

Bisexual:

- Attracted to more than one gender (could be two, multiple or all).
- Experiences attraction to different genders in different ways.
- May have a preference for a certain gender.



Pansexual:

- Attracted to all gender identities.
- Gender is not a factor in attraction. (They do not 'see' gender.)
- Do not have a preference for any gender.



What Should I Do If I'm Unsure of Someone's Sexuality?

Many people, especially if they are not out or are still unsure of their sexuality, will find it uncomfortable to be asked explicitly about their sexuality. If someone is comfortable talking about their sexuality, they might bring it up in conversation, but if they don't, do not force them into telling you.

However, at the same time don't assume that someone is straight just because they haven't told you otherwise. The most important thing to remember is to let people come out on their own terms.



Sources

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3. <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/what-is-pansexuality>
4. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/bi-sexual-vs-pansexual#how-to-identify>
5. <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/whats-the-real-difference-between-bi-and-pansexual-667087/>
6. <https://stylecaster.com/asking-about-sexuality/>

[source](#)



iamatinow

There are older men in everything. Men don't grow up with the idea that they're somehow obsolete with age. Old men are brilliant, charismatic, fun, flirty mentors in everything the media puts out. They're prestigious and powerful. Even if they're abusers, they're just *misunderstood and broken hearted* and it's all very poetic.

Women are told that they peak at 18 and any nubile looks they maintain are a saving grace. Women are told that they're worth precisely how much they can ensnare or seduce or benefit a man. Women's lives, according to our society, begin at 18 and end at 29. If we manage to maintain the whole "young & fun" air we can get away with maybe a couple more years of being considered of worth.

Women don't lose their vitality according to societally defined ideas about our age. Men aren't the only ones who stay vital and passionate into their sixties. Young girls growing up have tragically few role models to look up to. They're told there is nothing for them beyond being hot shit in their twenties.

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source



I just saw someone say, "You didn't make good choices. You had good choices." and I am completely floored. I mean, what a great way to talk about privilege.

source



Icona 
@Iconawrites

Here's one feminist life rule of mine: I never judge a man based on how he treats women when they are coddling or praising him. Look closely at how a man reacts when a woman displeases him, stands up to him, or draws a boundary with him, and you will find out who he really is.

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

Hey, everybody. I had a rough day today. One part was extra awful. I want to talk about it in this thread. It's about why it matters how you regard, talk about and treat sex workers. (There's some hard stuff in here from someone being fairly awful about women and sex, just FYI.)

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

A user came into our text line today saying he felt ashamed about being in his 20s & hasn't had sex with anyone else yet. I tried to help them offload that shame in a few ways, but they ultimately just felt the answer is for them to have sex. I disagree, but it's not my decision.

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

They said they wanted not to "waste their 20s" and wanted to have sex with several women. I said a few things to counter some of the yuck in that, then also affirmed it was totally okay to want sex and sexual partners.



Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

I asked them if they had sexual interest in anyone in particular. They didn't. I said, then, that meeting people was the way any of this starts and talked about that a bit. This led to them telling me they didn't want to deal with women at all aside from wanting sex with them.

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

They asked how they could manipulate women by "faking" care about or interest in them so they could "just get what I want." I said the things you probably would imagine a good sex educator who works to help people have healthy relationships and interactions would say.

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

I shared a link to this fantastic piece we published by Thomas MacAulay Miller: Ethical Horniness, Or How To Find A Partner In An Enthusiastic Consent World



Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

But ultimately, they told me they weren't interested in any of that. They didn't want to have to care about people (they asked why they even had to care about other people after I had set a boundary with them and logged off for the day).

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

You may be unsurprised to know that in the context of all this, they told me they'd "been thinking about just paying for it." The why is right there: he doesn't want to have to care about people he has sex with. He thinks he does not have to care about people who are sex workers.

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

There are many reasons why sex workers suffer so much violence and other kinds of harm. But this — that at the crux of things, people, lots of them, believe that what sex workers provide is sex where you do not have to treat them like people — is at the heart of most of them. ❤️



Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

This is not at all the first time I've heard/seen something like this in the decades I have done this kind of work (or when I was doing sex work). I've heard a range of this very common idea in our direct services, and not just from dudes, or dudes that sound this maladjusted.

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

I hope I don't have to tell you this is wrong. This is NOT what sex workers provide. Sex workers provide sexual opportunities, but still absolutely should be — and must be, if you're not engaging in abuse — treated w/courtesy, care and consideration like, I hope, everyone else.

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

This guy didn't come up with this on his own, or likely get this message from one person (or porn, etc.). He got this message from EVERYWHERE, which is where so many people get it from. How could he miss it? How could anyone?



Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

I'm going to be real clear: if you do not want to treat anyone like a human being in the most basic ways but want to have sex, seeking out a sex worker is NOT what to do. Because sex workers ARE PEOPLE. Sex workers must be treated like people.

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

(If that's what you want, then what you should do is stay in your own room without interacting with other people until and unless you can treat them like people. I also vote for treating yourself like a person, but that's your choice.)

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

Here's my ask: this guy got this from so many people's words and actions. It's omnipresent. And you can perhaps see, I hope, how this idea is totally fuels violence against sex workers, fuels and sustains all kinds of inhumanity about and against sex workers.



Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

If this is anywhere inside of you, this idea that sex workers are not people, are less than people, or that it's okay to treat them with any less care and consideration than other people? BURN IT DOWN. Be done with it utterly and completely.

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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

Make sure in the ways you talk about, regard or treat sex workers (and vote!), your words and actions all contain and project the clear, unwavering message that sex workers are people that everyone needs to care about deeply and treat with that care as we should all people. ❤️

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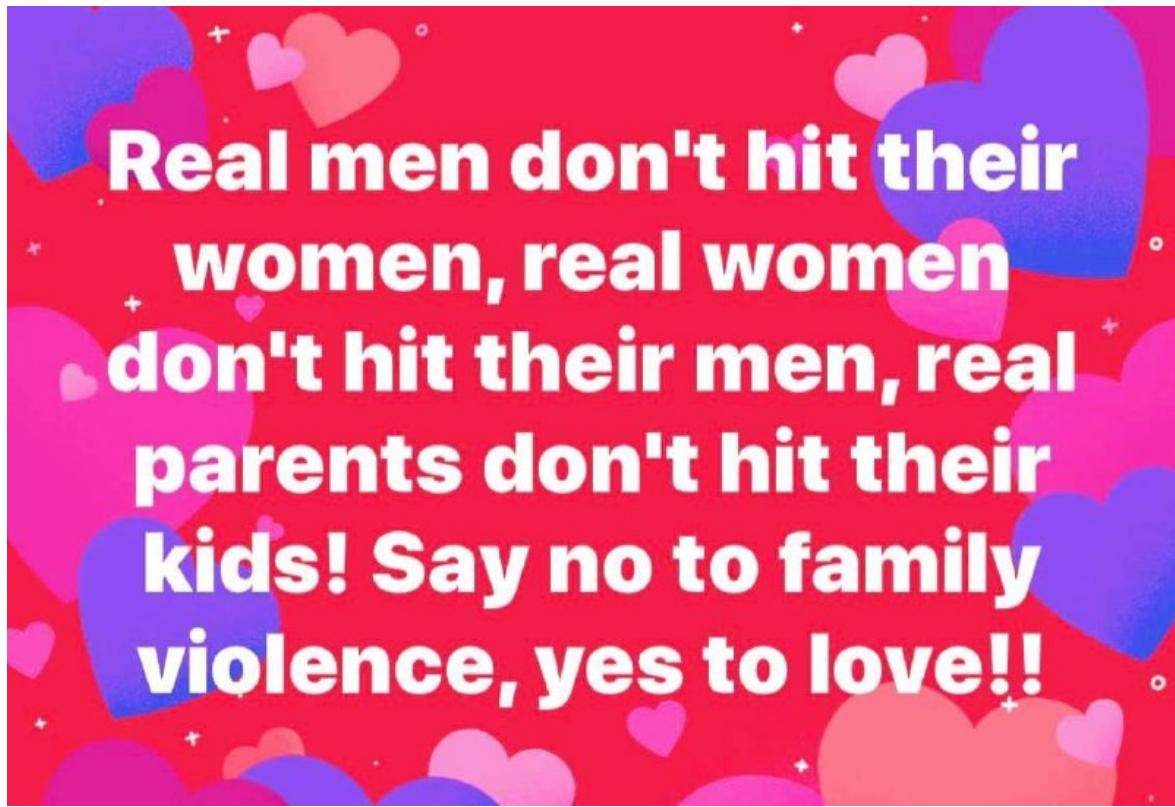
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Heather Corinna @heathercorinna · 15h ▾

Thanks for listening and passing this (or things like this) around. This is personal for me -- including the sex workers in my life and world I care about and am often so scared for expressly and only *because* of this crap. This matters to me. This just matters, period.

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<https://www.coursera.org/learn/queeringidentities>

Coursera

Queering Identities: LGBTQ+ Sexuality and Gender Identity

Offered by University of Colorado System. In this course, you will explore the history of LGBTQ identities, experiences, and activism. We'll study major events in global LGBTQ history, investigate local histories of queer and transgender people and communities...

Why the fuck do we tell little girls that little boys who bully them and pick on them have crushes on them? Why do we allow little boys to do treat their crushes like favorite toys they can toss around? And we say it's cute? I'm fucking appalled, this is why so many women end up in abusive relationships and think it's normal for men to mistreat them and exhibit obsessive unhealthy behaviors and it's just a way of expressing love. [source](#)

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