[Template:Pp-semi-protected](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-protected" \o "Template:Pp-semi-protected) [thumb|LGBT publications,](/wiki/File:Palco_BolognaPride08.jpg) [pride parades](/wiki/Pride_parade), and related events, such as this stage at [Bologna](/wiki/Bologna) Pride 2008 in Italy, increasingly drop the *LGBT* initialism instead of regularly adding new letters, and dealing with issues of placement of those letters within the new title.[[1]](#cite_note-1) [Template:LGBT sidebar](/wiki/Template:LGBT_sidebar)

**LGBT** or **GLBT** is an [initialism](/wiki/Initialism) that stands for [**l**esbian](/wiki/Lesbian), [**g**ay](/wiki/Gay), [**b**isexual](/wiki/Bisexuality), and [**t**ransgender](/wiki/Transgender). In use since the 1990s, the term is an adaptation of the initialism **LGB**, which was used to replace the term *gay* in reference to the [LGBT community](/wiki/LGBT_community) beginning in the mid-to-late 1980s.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Activists believed that the term [*gay community*](/wiki/Gay_community) did not accurately represent all those to whom it referred.[[3]](#cite_note-3) The initialism has become mainstream as a self-designation; it has been adopted by the majority of [sexuality and gender identity-based](/wiki/Sexuality_and_gender_identity-based_cultures) community centers and media in the [United States](/wiki/United_States), as well as some other [English-speaking countries](/wiki/English-speaking_world).[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) The term is used also in some other countries, particularly those which languages use the initialism, such as Argentina, France and Turkey.

The initialism LGBT is intended to emphasize a diversity of sexuality and gender identity-based cultures. It may be used to refer to anyone who is [non-heterosexual](/wiki/Non-heterosexual) or non-[cisgender](/wiki/Cisgender), instead of exclusively to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[6]](#cite_note-6) To recognize this inclusion, a popular variant adds the letter Q for those who identify as [queer](/wiki/Queer) or are [questioning](/wiki/Questioning_(sexuality_and_gender)) their sexual identity; **LGBTQ** has been recorded since 1996.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Those who wish to include [intersex](/wiki/Intersex) people in LGBT groups suggest an extended initialism **LGBTI.**[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[9]](#cite_note-9) This initialism is used in all parts of "The Activist's Guide" of the [Yogyakarta Principles in Action](/wiki/Yogyakarta_Principles_in_Action).[[10]](#cite_note-10) Some people combine the two acronyms and use the term **LGBTIQ** or **LGBTQI**. Still others add the letter A for [asexual](/wiki/Asexual) or allies (those that are [cisgendered](/wiki/Cisgender), but who support the community): **LGBTQIA**. Finally, a + sign sometimes is added to the end for anyone else not covered by the seven other initials: **LGBTQIA+**.

Whether or not LGBT people openly identify themselves may depend on local political concerns and whether they live in a discriminatory environment, as well as on the status of [LGBT rights](/wiki/LGBT_rights_by_country_or_territory) where they live.<ref name=betterhealth1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) Before the [sexual revolution](/wiki/Sexual_revolution) of the 1960s, there was no common non-derogatory vocabulary for [non-heterosexuality](/wiki/Non-heterosexuals); the closest such term, [*third gender*](/wiki/Third_gender), traces back to the 1860s but never gained wide acceptance in the United States.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15)[[16]](#cite_note-16) The first widely used term, [*homosexual*](/wiki/Homosexual), originally carried negative connotations. It was replaced by [*homophile*](/wiki/Homophile) in the 1950s and 1960s,[[17]](#cite_note-17) and subsequently [*gay*](/wiki/Gay) in the 1970s; the latter term was adopted first by the homosexual community.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Lars Ullerstam promoted use of the term [sexual minority](/wiki/Sexual_minority) in the 1960s,([sv](/wiki/Sv:Lars_Ullerstam)) as an analogy to the term [ethnic minority](/wiki/Ethnic_minority) for non-whites.[[18]](#cite_note-18) As [lesbians](/wiki/Lesbian) forged more public identities, the phrase "gay and lesbian" became more common.[[3]](#cite_note-3) The [Daughters of Bilitis](/wiki/Daughters_of_Bilitis) folded in 1970 due to disputes over their direction: whether to focus on [feminism](/wiki/Feminism) or [gay rights](/wiki/Gay_rights) issues.[[19]](#cite_note-19) As equality was a priority for [lesbian feminists](/wiki/Lesbian_feminism), disparity of roles between men and women or [butch and femme](/wiki/Butch_and_femme) were viewed as patriarchal. Lesbian feminists eschewed [gender role](/wiki/Gender_role) play that had been pervasive in bars, as well as the perceived chauvinism of gay men; many lesbian feminists refused to work with gay men, or take up their causes.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Lesbians who held a more [essentialist](/wiki/Essentialist) view, that they had been born homosexual and used the descriptor "lesbian" to define sexual attraction, often considered the separatist, angry opinions of lesbian-feminists to be detrimental to the cause of gay rights.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Bisexual and transgender people also sought recognition as legitimate categories within the larger minority community.[[3]](#cite_note-3) After the elation of change following group action in the [Stonewall riots](/wiki/Stonewall_riots) in New York, in the late 1970s and the early 1980s, some gays and lesbians became less accepting of [bisexual](/wiki/Bisexual) or [transgender](/wiki/Transgender) people.[[22]](#cite_note-22)[[23]](#cite_note-23) Critics said that transgender people were acting out [stereotypes](/wiki/Stereotypes) and bisexuals were simply gay men or lesbian women who were afraid to [come out](/wiki/Coming_out) and be honest about their identity.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Each community has struggled to develop its own identity including whether, and how, to align with other [gender](/wiki/Gender) and sexuality-based communities, at times excluding other subgroups; these conflicts continue to this day.[[23]](#cite_note-23) From about 1988, activists began to use the initialism LGBT in the United States.[[24]](#cite_note-24) Not until the 1990s within the movement did gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people gain equal respect .[[23]](#cite_note-23) Although the LGBT community has seen much controversy regarding universal acceptance of different member groups (bisexual and transgender individuals, in particular, have sometimes been marginalized by the larger LGBT community), the term *LGBT* has been a positive symbol of inclusion.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[23]](#cite_note-23) Despite the fact that *LGBT* does not nominally encompass all individuals in smaller communities (see Variants below), the term is generally accepted to include those not specifically identified in the four-letter initialism.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[23]](#cite_note-23) Overall, the use of the term *LGBT* has, over time, largely aided in bringing otherwise marginalized individuals into the general community.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[23]](#cite_note-23) Transgender actress [Candis Cayne](/wiki/Candis_Cayne) in 2009 described the LGBT community "the last great minority", noting that "We can still be harassed openly" and be "called out on television."[[25]](#cite_note-25) In response to years of lobbying from users and LGBT groups to eliminate discrimination, the online social networking service [Facebook](/wiki/Facebook), in February 2014, widened its choice of gender variants for users.[[26]](#cite_note-26)[[27]](#cite_note-27) In June 2015, after the US Supreme Court verdict granting equal marriage rights, Facebook introduced a filter allowing users to color their profile pictures rainbow in celebration of LGBT equality.[[28]](#cite_note-28)

## Variants[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|left|2007](/wiki/File:Marcha-orgullo-buenos-aires.JPG) [pride parade](/wiki/Pride_parade) in Buenos Aires organized by the Argentine Federation of LGBT people with the *LGBT* initialism visible in the groups' banner (top right of image)

Many variants exist including variations that change the order of the letters; *LGBT* or *GLBT* are the most common terms and the ones most frequently seen.[[23]](#cite_note-23) Although identical in meaning, *LGBT* may have a more [feminist](/wiki/Feminist) connotation than *GLBT* as it places the "L" (for "lesbian") first.[[23]](#cite_note-23) When not inclusive of transgender people, it is sometimes shortened to *LGB*.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[29]](#cite_note-29) *LGBT* may also include additional "Q"s for "[queer](/wiki/Queer)" or "[questioning](/wiki/Questioning_(sexuality_and_gender))" (sometimes abbreviated with a question mark and sometimes used to mean anybody not literally L, G, B or T) producing the variants "LGBTQ" and "LGBTQQ"".[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[32]](#cite_note-32) In the United Kingdom, it is sometimes stylized as **LGB&T**,[[33]](#cite_note-33)[[34]](#cite_note-34) whilst the [Green Party of England and Wales](/wiki/Green_Party_of_England_and_Wales) uses the term **LGBTIQ** in its manifesto and official publications.<ref name=LGBTIQGreens>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=EqualityForAll>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=PinkNewsLGBTIQGreen>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

The order of the letters has not been standardized; in addition to the variations between the positions of the initial "L" or "G", the mentioned, less common letters, if used, may appear in almost any order.[[23]](#cite_note-23) Initialisms related to LGBTQ people are sometimes referred to as "alphabet soup."[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36) Variant terms do not typically represent political differences within the community, but arise simply from the preferences of individuals and groups.[[37]](#cite_note-37) The terms [*pansexual*](/wiki/Pansexual), *omnisexual*, *fluid* and *queer-identified* are regarded as falling under the umbrella term *bisexual* (and therefore are considered a part of the [bisexual community](/wiki/Bisexual_community)). Likewise, the terms *transsexual* and [*intersex*](/wiki/Intersex) are regarded by some people as falling under the umbrella term *transgender*, though many transsexual and intersex people object to this.[[23]](#cite_note-23) Some intersex people prefer the initialism **LGBTI**, while others insist that they are not a part of the LGBT community and would rather that they not be included as part of the term.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[38]](#cite_note-38) In Australia, where *LGBTI* is increasingly used,[[39]](#cite_note-39)[[40]](#cite_note-40) and organizations representing cross-community interests have a history of collaboration including through a [National LGBTI Health Alliance](/wiki/National_LGBTI_Health_Alliance), anti-discrimination legislation recognizes that intersex is a biological attribute distinct from both [gender identity](/wiki/Gender_identity) and [sexual orientation](/wiki/Sexual_orientation).[[39]](#cite_note-39)[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[42]](#cite_note-42)[[43]](#cite_note-43)[[44]](#cite_note-44) *SGL* ("[same gender loving](/wiki/Same_gender_loving)") is sometimes favored among gay male [African Americans](/wiki/African_American) as a way of distinguishing themselves from what they regard as [white](/wiki/White_people)-dominated LGBT communities.[[45]](#cite_note-45) *MSM* ("[men who have sex with men](/wiki/Men_who_have_sex_with_men)") is clinically used to describe men who have sex with other men without referring to their sexual orientation.[[46]](#cite_note-46)[[47]](#cite_note-47) The gender identity "transgender" has been recategorized to trans\* by some groups, where trans (without the asterisk) has been used to describe [trans men](/wiki/Trans_men) and [trans women](/wiki/Trans_women), while trans\* covers all non-cisgender ([genderqueer](/wiki/Genderqueer)) identities, including transgender, transsexual, transvestite, genderqueer, genderfluid, non-binary, [genderfuck](/wiki/Genderfuck), genderless, [agender](/wiki/Agender), non-gendered, third gender, two-spirit, [bigender](/wiki/Bigender), and trans man and trans woman.[[48]](#cite_note-48)[[49]](#cite_note-49) Other variants may have a "U" for "unsure"; a "C" for "curious"; another "T" for "[transvestite](/wiki/Transvestism)"; a "TS", or "2" for "[two-spirit](/wiki/Two-spirit)" persons; or an "SA" for "[straight allies](/wiki/Straight_ally)".[[50]](#cite_note-50)[[51]](#cite_note-51)[[52]](#cite_note-52)[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54) However, the inclusion of straight allies in the LGBT acronym has proven controversial as many straight allies have been accused of using LGBT advocacy to gain popularity and status in recent years,[[55]](#cite_note-55) and various LGBT activists have criticised the heteronormative worldview of certain straight allies.[[56]](#cite_note-56) Some may also add a "P" for "[polyamorous](/wiki/Polyamorous)", an "H" for "[HIV-affected](/wiki/HIV)", or an "O" for "other".[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[57]](#cite_note-57) Furthermore, the initialism LGBTIH has seen use in [India](/wiki/India) to encompass the [hijra](/wiki/Hijra_(South_Asia)) [third gender](/wiki/Third_gender) identity and the related subculture.[[58]](#cite_note-58)<ref name=GayLeeds>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The initialism *LGBTTQQIAAP* (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, ally, pansexual) has also resulted, although such initialisms are sometimes criticized for being confusing and leaving some people out, as well as issues of placement of the letters within the new title.[[35]](#cite_note-35) However, adding the term "allies" to the initialism has sparked controversy,<ref name=ISD>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> with some seeing the inclusion of "ally" as opposed to "asexual" a form of asexual erasure.<ref name=Maroon1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> There is also the [acronym](/wiki/Acronym) *QUILTBAG* (queer and questioning, intersex, lesbian, transgender and two-spirit, bisexual, asexual and ally, and gay and genderqueer).[[59]](#cite_note-59) The magazine [*Anything That Moves*](/wiki/Anything_That_Moves) coined the acronym *FABGLITTER* from [fetish](/wiki/Sexual_fetishism) (such as the [BDSM](/wiki/BDSM) community), allies or poly-amorous (as in [polyamorous](/wiki/Polyamorous) relationships), bisexual, gay, lesbian, intersex, transgender, transsexual engendering revolution or inter-racial attraction; however, this term has not made its way into common usage.[[3]](#cite_note-3) [Wesleyan University](/wiki/Wesleyan_University) used the initialism *LGBTTQQFAGPBDSM* for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, flexual,[Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify) asexual, gender-fuck, polyamorous, bondage/discipline, dominance/submission, and sadism/masochism".[[60]](#cite_note-60)[[61]](#cite_note-61) Some use the much shorter style **LGBT+** to mean "LGBT and related communities".[[62]](#cite_note-62)