[Template:Pp-vandalism](/wiki/Template:Pp-vandalism" \o "Template:Pp-vandalism) [Template:Transgender sidebar](/wiki/Template:Transgender_sidebar)

**Transgender** people are people who have a [gender identity](/wiki/Gender_identity), or gender expression, that differs from their [assigned sex](/wiki/Sex_assignment).[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) Transgender people are sometimes called [*transsexual*](/wiki/Transsexual) if they desire medical assistance to [transition](/wiki/Transitioning_(transgender)) from one sex to another. *Transgender* is also an [umbrella term](/wiki/Umbrella_term): in addition to including people whose gender identity is the *opposite* of their assigned sex ([trans men](/wiki/Trans_men) and [trans women](/wiki/Trans_women)), it may include people who are not exclusively masculine or feminine (people who are [genderqueer](/wiki/Genderqueer), e.g. [bigender](/wiki/Bigender), [pangender](/wiki/Pangender), genderfluid, or agender).[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) Other definitions of *transgender* also include people who belong to a [third gender](/wiki/Third_gender), or conceptualize transgender people as a third gender.[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7) Infrequently, the term *transgender* is defined very broadly to include [cross-dressers](/wiki/Cross-dresser).[[8]](#cite_note-8) Being transgender is independent of [sexual orientation](/wiki/Sexual_orientation):[[9]](#cite_note-9) transgender people may identify as [heterosexual](/wiki/Heterosexual), [homosexual](/wiki/Homosexuality), [bisexual](/wiki/Bisexual), [asexual](/wiki/Asexuality), etc., or may consider conventional sexual orientation labels inadequate or inapplicable. The term *transgender* can also be distinguished from [*intersex*](/wiki/Intersex), a term that describes people born with physical sex characteristics "that do not fit typical binary notions of [male](/wiki/Male) or [female](/wiki/Female) bodies".[[10]](#cite_note-10) The degree to which individuals feel genuine, authentic, and comfortable within their external appearance and accept their genuine identity has been called *transgender congruence*.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Many transgender people experience [gender dysphoria](/wiki/Gender_dysphoria), and some seek medical treatments such as [hormone replacement therapy](/wiki/Hormone_replacement_therapy_(transgender)), [sex reassignment surgery](/wiki/Sex_reassignment_surgery), or [psychotherapy](/wiki/Psychotherapy).[[12]](#cite_note-12) Not all transgender people desire these treatments, and some cannot undergo them for financial or medical reasons.[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13) Most transgender people face discrimination at and in access to work,[[14]](#cite_note-14) public accommodations,[[15]](#cite_note-15) and healthcare.[[16]](#cite_note-16) They are [not legally protected from discrimination](/wiki/Legal_aspects_of_transgenderism) in many places.[[17]](#cite_note-17)

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## Evolution of transgender terminology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Psychiatrist John F. Oliven of [Columbia University](/wiki/Columbia_University_College_of_Physicians_and_Surgeons) coined the term *transgender* in his 1965 reference work *Sexual Hygiene and Pathology*, writing that the term which had previously been used, [*transsexualism*](/wiki/Transsexual), "is misleading; actually, 'transgenderism' is meant, because sexuality is not a major factor in primary transvestism."[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19) The term *transgender* was then popularized with varying definitions by various transgender, transsexual and transvestite people, including [Virginia Prince](/wiki/Virginia_Prince),[[20]](#cite_note-20) who used it in the December 1969 issue of *Transvestia*, a national magazine for cross dressers she founded.<ref name=TGP>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> By the mid-1970s both *trans-gender* and *trans people* were in use as umbrella terms,<ref group=note>\*In April 1970, *TV Guide* published an article which referenced a post-operative transsexual movie character as being "transgendered."([Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal))

* In the 1974 edition of *Clinical Sexuality: A Manual for the Physician and the Professions*, *transgender* was used as an umbrella term and the Conference Report from the 1974 "National TV.TS Conference" held in Leeds, West Yorkshire, UK used "trans-gender" and "trans.people" as umbrella terms.([Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)), (2006). The Transgender Phenomenon ([Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book))
* However *A Practical Handbook of Psychiatry* (1974) references "transgender surgery" noting, "The transvestite rarely seeks transgender surgery, since the core of his perversion is an attempt to realize the fantasy of a phallic woman."([Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book))</ref> and 'transgenderist' was used to describe people who wanted to live cross-gender without [sex reassignment surgery](/wiki/Sex_reassignment_surgery) (SRS).[[21]](#cite_note-21) By 1976, *transgenderist* was abbreviated as *TG* in educational materials.[[22]](#cite_note-22)

By 1984, the concept of a "transgender community" had developed, in which *transgender* was used as an umbrella term;[[23]](#cite_note-23) in 1985, Richard Elkins established the "Trans-Gender Archive" at the University of Ulster.[[24]](#cite_note-24) By 1992, the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy defined *transgender* as an expansive umbrella term including "transsexuals, transgenderists, cross dressers" and anyone [transitioning](/wiki/Transitioning_(transgender)).[[25]](#cite_note-25) The term [*trans man*](/wiki/Trans_man) refers to a man who has transitioned from female-to-male, and [*trans woman*](/wiki/Trans_woman) refers to a woman who has transitioned from male-to-female. Health-practitioner manuals, professional journalistic [style guides](/wiki/Style_guide), and LGBT advocacy groups advise the adoption by others of the name and pronouns identified by the person in question, including present references to the transgender person's past;[[26]](#cite_note-26)[[27]](#cite_note-27) many also note that *transgender* should be used as an adjective, not a noun (for example, "Max is transgender" or "Max is a transgender man", not "Max is a transgender"), and that *transgender* should be used, not *transgendered*.[[28]](#cite_note-28)[[29]](#cite_note-29)[[30]](#cite_note-30) People who are neither transgender nor genderqueer — people whose sense of personal identity corresponds to the sex and gender [assigned to them at birth](/wiki/Sex_assignment) — are termed [*cisgender*](/wiki/Cisgender).[[31]](#cite_note-31)

## Transsexual and its relationship to transgender[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Dablink](/wiki/Template:Dablink)

The term *transsexual* was introduced to English in 1949 by [David Oliver Cauldwell](/wiki/David_Oliver_Cauldwell),<ref group=note>[Magnus Hirschfeld](/wiki/Magnus_Hirschfeld) coined the German term "Transsexualismus" in 1923, which Cauldwell translated into English.</ref> and popularized by [Harry Benjamin](/wiki/Harry_Benjamin) in 1966, around the same time *transgender* was coined and began to be popularized.[[20]](#cite_note-20) Since the 1990s, *transsexual* has generally been used to describe the subset of *transgender* people[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[32]](#cite_note-32)[[33]](#cite_note-33) who desire to transition permanently to the gender with which they identify and who seek medical assistance (for example, SRS) with this. However, the concerns of the two groups are sometimes different; for example, transsexual men and women who can pay for medical treatments (or who have institutional coverage for their treatment) are likely to be concerned with medical privacy and establishing a durable legal status as their gender later in life.

Distinctions between the terms *transgender* and *transsexual* are commonly based on [distinctions between *gender* (psychological, social) and *sex* (physical)](/wiki/Sex_and_gender_distinction).[[34]](#cite_note-34)[[35]](#cite_note-35) Hence, transsexuality may be said to deal more with material aspects of one's sex, while transgender considerations deal more with one's internal gender disposition or predisposition, as well as the related social expectations that may accompany a given gender role.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Many transgender people prefer the designation *transgender* and reject *transsexual*.[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38)[[39]](#cite_note-39) For example, [Christine Jorgensen](/wiki/Christine_Jorgensen) publicly rejected *transsexual* in 1979, and instead identified herself in newsprint as *trans-gender*, saying, "gender doesn't have to do with bed partners, it has to do with identity."[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[41]](#cite_note-41) This refers to the concern that *transsexual* implies something to do with [sexuality](/wiki/Sexuality), when it is actually about gender identity.[[42]](#cite_note-42)<ref group=note>The recurring concern that *transsexual* implies *sexuality* stems from the tendency of many informal speakers to ignore the [sex and gender distinction](/wiki/Sex_and_gender_distinction) and use *gender* for any male/female difference and *sex* for [sexual activity](/wiki/Human_sexual_activity). ([Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web))</ref> Some transsexual people (those who desire or have undergone), however, object to being included in the *transgender* umbrella.[[43]](#cite_note-43)[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45)<ref name=MHB>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The definitions of both terms have historically been variable.

In his 2007 book *Transgender, an Ethnography of a Category*, anthropologist David Valentine asserts that *transgender* was coined and used by activists to include many people who do not necessarily identify with the term, and states that people who do not identify with the term *transgender* should not be included in the transgender spectrum.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Leslie Feinberg likewise asserts that *transgender* is not a self-identifier (for some people) but a category imposed by observers to understand other people.[[44]](#cite_note-44) However, these assertions are contested by the Transgender Health Program (THP) at Fenway Health in Boston. It notes that there are no universally accepted definitions, and terminology confusion is common because terms that were popular in at the turn of the 21st century may now be deemed offensive. The THP recommends that clinicians ask clients what terminology they prefer, and avoid the term *transsexual* unless they are sure that a client is comfortable with it.[[42]](#cite_note-42) [Harry Benjamin](/wiki/Harry_Benjamin) invented a classification system for transsexuals and transvestites, called the [Sex Orientation Scale](/wiki/Sex_Orientation_Scale) (SOS), in which he assigned transsexuals and transvestites to one of six categories based on their reasons for cross-dressing and the relative urgency of their need (if any) for sex reassignment surgery.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Benjamin considered a moderate intensity "true transsexual" to need either [estrogen](/wiki/Estrogen) or [testosterone](/wiki/Testosterone) as a "substitute for or preliminary to operation";[[46]](#cite_note-46) people who meet Benjamin's definition of a "true transsexual" but do not desire SRS include [Miriam Rivera](/wiki/Miriam_(entertainer)). There are also people who have had SRS but do not meet the definition of "transsexual", such as [Gregory Hemingway](/wiki/Gregory_Hemingway).[[47]](#cite_note-47)[[48]](#cite_note-48)

## Other categories[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

In addition to trans men and trans women whose binary gender identity is the opposite of their assigned sex, and who form the core of the *transgender* umbrella, being included in even the narrowest definitions of it, several other groups are included in broader definitions of the term. These include people whose gender identities are not exclusively masculine or feminine but may, for example, be [androgynous](/wiki/Androgynous), [bigender](/wiki/Bigender), [pangender](/wiki/Pangender) or [agender](/wiki/Agender) — often grouped under the alternative umbrella term [*genderqueer*](/wiki/Genderqueer)[[5]](#cite_note-5) — and [third-gender](/wiki/Third-gender) people (alternatively, some references and some societies conceptualize transgender people as a third gender).[[6]](#cite_note-6)[[7]](#cite_note-7) Although some references define *transgender* very broadly to include [transvestites](/wiki/Transvestite) / [cross-dressers](/wiki/Cross-dresser),[[8]](#cite_note-8) they are usually excluded, as are [transvestic fetishists](/wiki/Transvestic_fetish) (because they are considered to be expressing a [paraphilia](/wiki/Paraphilia) rather than a gender identification) and [drag kings](/wiki/Drag_kings) and [drag queens](/wiki/Drag_queens) (who are performers and cross-dress for the purpose of entertaining). [Intersex](/wiki/Intersex) people have genitalia or other physical [sexual](/wiki/Sex) characteristics that do not conform to strict definitions of male or female, but intersex people are not necessarily transgender, since they do not all disagree with their assigned sex. Transgender and intersex issues often overlap, however, because they both challenge the notion of rigid definitions of sex and gender.

### Genderqueer, including androgynous and bigender[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Genderqueer or non-binary identities, which are not exclusively masculine or feminine but instead are [agender](/wiki/Agender), androgynous, bigender, [pangender](/wiki/Pangender) or [genderfluid](/wiki/Genderfluid),[[49]](#cite_note-49) exist outside of [cisnormativity](/wiki/Cisnormativity).[[50]](#cite_note-50)[[51]](#cite_note-51) Bigender and androgynous are overlapping categories; bigender individuals may identify as moving between male and female roles (genderfluid) or as being both male and female simultaneously (androgynous), and androgynes may similarly identify as beyond gender or genderless ([postgender](/wiki/Postgender), agender), between genders (intergender), or moving across genders (genderfluid) or simultaneously exhibiting multiple genders (pangender). Limited forms of androgyny are common (women wearing pants, men wearing earrings) and are not seen as transgender behaviour. *Androgyne* is also sometimes used as a medical synonym for an intersex person.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Genderqueer identities are independent of sexual orientation.

### Transvestite or cross-dresser[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

A [transvestite](/wiki/Transvestism) is a person who [cross-dresses](/wiki/Cross-dressing), or dresses in clothes typically associated with the gender opposite the one they were [assigned at birth](/wiki/Sex_assignment).[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54) The term *transvestite* is used as a synonym for the term *cross-dresser*,[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56) although *cross-dresser* is generally considered the preferred term.[[56]](#cite_note-56)[[57]](#cite_note-57) The term *cross-dresser* is not exactly defined in the relevant literature. [Michael A. Gilbert](/wiki/Michael_A._Gilbert), professor at the Department of Philosophy, [York University](/wiki/York_University), [Toronto](/wiki/Toronto), offers this definition: "[A cross-dresser] is a person who has an apparent [gender identification](/wiki/Gender_identification) with one sex, and who has and certainly has been birth-designated as belonging to [that] sex, but who wears the clothing of the opposite sex because it is that of the opposite sex."[[58]](#cite_note-58) This definition excludes people "who wear opposite sex clothing for other reasons," such as "those [female impersonators](/wiki/Drag_queen) who look upon dressing as solely connected to their livelihood, actors undertaking roles, individual males and females enjoying a masquerade, and so on. These individuals are cross dressing but are not cross dressers."[[59]](#cite_note-59)Cross-dressers may not [identify](/wiki/Gender_identity) with, or want to be the opposite gender, nor adopt the behaviors or practices of the opposite gender, and generally do not want to [change their bodies medically](/wiki/Gender_transition). The majority of cross-dressers identify as heterosexual.[[60]](#cite_note-60) People who cross-dress in public can have a desire to [pass](/wiki/Passing_(gender)) as the opposite gender, so as not to be detected as a cross-dresser, or may be indifferent.

The term *transvestite* and the associated outdated term *transvestism* are conceptually different from the term *transvestic fetishism*, as *transvestic fetishist* describes those who intermittently use clothing of the opposite gender for fetishistic purposes.[[61]](#cite_note-61)[[62]](#cite_note-62) In medical terms, *transvestic fetishism* is differentiated from cross-dressing by use of the separate codes 302.3[[62]](#cite_note-62) in the [DSM](/wiki/Diagnostic_and_Statistical_Manual_of_Mental_Disorders) and F65.1[[61]](#cite_note-61) in the [ICD](/wiki/ICD).

### Drag kings and queens[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [*Drag*](/wiki/Drag_(clothing)) is a term applied to clothing and make-up worn on special occasions for [performing](/wiki/Performing_arts) or entertaining, unlike those who are transgender or who cross-dress for other reasons. Drag performance includes overall presentation and behavior in addition to clothing and makeup. Drag can be theatrical, comedic, or grotesque. Drag queens have been considered caricatures of women by [second-wave feminism](/wiki/Second-wave_feminism). Drag artists have a long tradition in [LGBT culture](/wiki/LGBT_culture). Generally the terms [*drag queen*](/wiki/Drag_queen) covers men doing female drag, [*drag king*](/wiki/Drag_king) covers women doing male drag, and [*faux queen*](/wiki/Faux_queen) covers women doing female drag. Nevertheless, there are drag artists of all genders and sexualities who perform for various reasons. Some drag performers, transvestites, and people in the gay community, have embraced the pornographically-derived term *tranny* to describe drag queens or people who engage in transvestism or cross-dressing; however this term is widely considered offensive if applied to transgender people.[[63]](#cite_note-63)

## LGBT community[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) The concepts of gender identity and transgender identity differ from that of [sexual orientation](/wiki/Sexual_orientation).[[64]](#cite_note-64) Sexual orientation describes an individual's enduring physical, romantic, emotional, or spiritual attraction to another person, while gender identity is one's personal sense of being a man or a woman.[[28]](#cite_note-28) Transgender people have more or less the same variety of sexual orientations as [cisgender](/wiki/Cisgender) people.[[65]](#cite_note-65) In the past, the terms *homosexual* and *heterosexual* were incorrectly used to label transgender individuals' sexual orientation based on their birth sex.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Professional literature now uses terms such as *attracted to men* ([androphilic](/wiki/Androphilia_and_gynephilia)), *attracted to women* ([gynephilic](/wiki/Androphilia_and_gynephilia)), *attracted to both* (bisexual) or *attracted to neither* (asexual) to describe a person's sexual orientation without reference to their gender identity.[[67]](#cite_note-67) Therapists are coming to understand the necessity of using terms with respect to their clients' gender identities and preferences.[[68]](#cite_note-68) For example, a person who is assigned male at birth, transitions to female, and is attracted to men would be identified as heterosexual.

Despite the distinction between sexual orientation and gender, throughout history the [gay, lesbian, and bisexual](/wiki/LGBT) subculture was often the only place where gender-variant people were socially accepted in the [gender role](/wiki/Gender_role) they felt they belonged to; especially during the time when legal or medical [transitioning](/wiki/Transitioning_(transgender)) was almost impossible. This acceptance has had a complex history. Like the wider world, the gay community in Western societies did not generally distinguish between sex and [gender identity](/wiki/Gender_identity) until the 1970s, and often perceived gender variant people more as homosexuals who behaved in a gender-variant way than as gender-variant people in their own right. Today, members of the transgender community often continue to struggle to remain part of the same movement as lesbian, gay and bisexual citizens, and to be included in rights protections. And in fact, the role of the transgender community in the history of LGBT rights is often overlooked, as shown in Transforming History.[[69]](#cite_note-69)

## Healthcare[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

### Mental healthcare[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

Most mental health professionals recommend therapy for internal conflicts about gender identity or discomfort in an assigned gender role, especially if one desires to [transition](/wiki/Transitioning_(transgender)). People who experience discord between their gender and the expectations of others or whose gender identity conflicts with their body may benefit by talking through their feelings in depth; however, research on gender identity with regard to psychology, and scientific understanding of the phenomenon and its related issues, are relatively new.[[70]](#cite_note-70) The terms *transsexualism*, *dual-role transvestism*, [*gender identity disorder*](/wiki/Gender_identity_disorder) *in adolescents or adults* and *gender identity disorder not otherwise specified* are listed as such in the [International Statistical Classification of Diseases (ICD)](/wiki/International_Statistical_Classification_of_Diseases_and_Related_Health_Problems) or the American [*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM)](/wiki/Diagnostic_and_Statistical_Manual_of_Mental_Disorders) under codes F64.0, F64.1, 302.85 and 302.6 respectively.[[71]](#cite_note-71) The [*DSM-5*](/wiki/DSM-5) refers to the topic as [*gender dysphoria*](/wiki/Gender_dysphoria).

Transgender people may meet the criteria for a diagnosis of gender identity disorder (GID) "only if [being transgender] causes distress or disability."[[72]](#cite_note-72) This distress is referred to as *gender dysphoria* and may manifest as depression or inability to work and form healthy relationships with others. This diagnosis is often misinterpreted as implying that transgender people suffer from GID; this misinterpretation has greatly confused transgender people and those who seek to either criticize or affirm them. Transgender people who are comfortable with their gender and whose gender is not directly causing inner frustration or impairing their functioning do not suffer from GID. Moreover, GID is not necessarily permanent and is often resolved through therapy or transitioning. Feeling oppressed by the negative attitudes and behaviors of such others as legal entities does not indicate GID. GID does not imply an opinion of immorality; the psychological establishment holds that people with any kind of mental or emotional problem should not receive stigma. The solution for GID is whatever will alleviate suffering and restore functionality; this solution often, but not always, consists of undergoing a [gender transition](/wiki/Transitioning_(transgender)).[[70]](#cite_note-70) Clinical training lacks relevant information needed in order to adequately help transgender clients, which only produces a series of practitioners who are not prepared to sufficiently work with this population of individuals.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Many mental healthcare providers know little about transgender issues. Those who seek help from these professionals often educate the professional without receiving help.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Many therapists who profess to know about transgender issues believe that transitioning from one sex to another[Template:Spaced ndashthe](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) standard transsexual model[Template:Spaced ndashis](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) the best or only solution.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) This solution usually is good for transsexual people but is not the solution for other transgender people, particularly [genderqueer](/wiki/Genderqueer) people who lack an exclusively male or female identity. Instead, therapists can support their clients in whatever steps they choose to take to transition or support their decision to not transition while also addressing their clients' sense of congruence between gender identity and appearance.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Acknowledgment of the lack of clinical training has increased; however, research on the specific problems faced by the transgender community in mental health has focused on diagnosis and clinicians' experiences instead of transgender clients' experiences.[[74]](#cite_note-74) Therapy was not always sought out by people due to mental health needs. Prior to the seventh version of the [Standards of Care](/wiki/Standards_of_Care_for_the_Health_of_Transsexual,_Transgender,_and_Gender_Nonconforming_People) (SOC), an individual had to be diagnosed with gender identity disorder in order to proceed with hormone treatments or sexual reassignment surgery. The new version decreased the focus on diagnosis and instead emphasized the importance of flexibility in order to meet the diverse health care needs of transsexual, transgender, and all gender nonconforming people.<ref name=SOC>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The purposes for seeking mental health services vary according to the individual, and simply because a transgender person seeks treatment does not mean their gender identity is problematic. The emotional strain on dealing with stigma and experiencing [transphobia](/wiki/Transphobia) pushes many transgender people to seek treatment to improve their quality of life, as one transwoman reflected: "Transgendered individuals are going to come to a therapist and most of their issues have nothing to do, specifically, with being transgendered. It has to do because they've had to hide, they've had to lie, and they've felt all of this guilt and shame, unfortunately usually for years!"[[74]](#cite_note-74)Struggling to deal with the stigma still attached to identifying as transgender, many people also seek mental health treatment for depression and anxiety, and some transgender people have stressed the importance of acknowledging their gender identity with a therapist in order to discuss other quality of life issues.[[74]](#cite_note-74) Problems still remain surrounding misinformation about transgender issues that hurt transgender people's mental health experiences. One transman who was enrolled as a student in a psychology graduate program highlighted the main concerns with modern clinical training: "Most people probably are familiar with the term transgender, but maybe that's it. I don’t think I've had any formal training just going through [clinical] programs . . . I don’t think most [therapists] know. Most therapists—Master's degree, PhD level—they've had . . . one diversity class on GLBT issues. One class out of the huge diversity training. One class. And it was probably mostly about gay lifestyle."[[74]](#cite_note-74) Many health insurance policies do not cover treatment associated with gender transition, and numerous people are under or not insured, which raises concerns about the insufficient training most therapists receive prior to working with transgender clients, potentially increasing financial strain on clients without providing the treatment they need.[[74]](#cite_note-74) Many clinicians who work with transgender clients only receive mediocre training on gender identity, but introductory training on interacting with transgender people has recently been made available to health care professionals to help remove barriers and increase the level of service for the transgender population.<ref name=Hanssman,Morrison,&Russian>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>

The issues around psychological classifications and associated stigma (whether based in paraphilia or not) of cross dressers, transsexual men and women (and lesbian and gay children, who may resemble trans children early in life) have become more complex since [CAMH](/wiki/Centre_for_Addiction_and_Mental_Health) (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) colleagues [Kenneth Zucker](/wiki/Kenneth_Zucker) and [Ray Blanchard](/wiki/Ray_Blanchard) were announced to be serving on the [DSM-V's](/wiki/DSM-V) Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders Work Group.[[75]](#cite_note-75) CAMH aims to 'cure' transgender people of their 'disorder', especially in children. Within the trans community, this intention has mostly produced shock and outrage with attempts to organize other responses.[[76]](#cite_note-76) In February 2010, France became the first country in the world to remove transgender identity from the list of mental diseases.[[77]](#cite_note-77)[[78]](#cite_note-78)

### Physical healthcare[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

Medical and surgical procedures exist for transsexual and some transgender people. (Most categories of transgender people as described above are not known for seeking the following treatments.) [Hormone replacement therapy for trans men](/wiki/Hormone_replacement_therapy_(female-to-male)) induces beard growth and masculinises skin, hair, voice, and fat distribution. [Hormone replacement therapy for trans women](/wiki/Hormone_replacement_therapy_(male-to-female)) feminises fat distribution and breasts. [Laser hair removal](/wiki/Laser_hair_removal) or [electrolysis](/wiki/Electrology) removes excess hair for trans women. Surgical procedures for trans women feminise the [voice](/wiki/Voice_therapy_(trans)#Vocal_surgeries), [skin](/wiki/Dermabrasion), [face](/wiki/Facial_feminization_surgery), [adam's apple](/wiki/Chondrolaryngoplasty), [breasts](/wiki/Breast_implant), [waist](/wiki/Liposuction), [buttocks](/wiki/Buttock_augmentation) and [genitals](/wiki/Sex_reassignment_surgery_male-to-female). Surgical procedures for trans men masculinise the [chest](/wiki/Male_Chest_Reconstruction) and [genitals](/wiki/Sex_reassignment_surgery_female-to-male#Genital_reassignment) and remove the [womb](/wiki/Hysterectomy) and [ovaries and fallopian tubes](/wiki/Oophorectomy). The acronyms "[GRS](/wiki/Gender_reassignment_surgery)" and "[SRS](/wiki/Sex_reassignment_surgery)" refer to genital surgery. The term "[sex reassignment therapy](/wiki/Sex_reassignment_therapy)" (SRT) is used as an umbrella term for physical procedures required for [transition](/wiki/Transgender_transition). Use of the term "[sex change](/wiki/Sex_change)" has been criticized for its emphasis on surgery, and the term "transition" is preferred.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[79]](#cite_note-79) Availability of these procedures depends on degree of [gender dysphoria](/wiki/Gender_dysphoria), presence or absence of [gender identity disorder](/wiki/Gender_identity_disorder),[[80]](#cite_note-80) and [standards of care](/wiki/Standards_of_Care_for_the_Health_of_Transsexual,_Transgender,_and_Gender_Nonconforming_People) in the relevant jurisdiction.

Trans men who have not had a hysterectomy and who take testosterone are at increased risk for [endometrial cancer](/wiki/Endometrial_cancer) because [androstenedione](/wiki/Androstenedione), which is made from testosterone in the body, can be converted into [estrogen](/wiki/Estrogen), and external estrogen is a risk factor for endometrial cancer.[[81]](#cite_note-81)

## Law[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Camille_Cabral_pour_les_Trans.JPG)[Camille Cabral](/wiki/Camille_Cabral), a French transgender activist at a demonstration for transgender people in Paris, October 1, 2005 [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Legal procedures exist in some [jurisdictions](/wiki/Jurisdiction), allowing individuals to change their legal gender or name to reflect their [gender identity](/wiki/Gender_identity). Requirements for these procedures vary from an explicit formal diagnosis of [transsexualism](/wiki/Transsexualism) to a diagnosis of [gender identity disorder](/wiki/Gender_identity_disorder) to a letter from a physician that attests the individual's gender transition or having established a different [gender role](/wiki/Gender_role).[[82]](#cite_note-82) In 1994, the DSM IV entry was changed from "Transsexual" to "Gender Identity Disorder." In many places, transgender people are not legally protected from discrimination in the workplace or in public accommodations.[[17]](#cite_note-17) A report released in February 2011 found that 90% of transgender people faced discrimination at work and were unemployed at double the rate of the general population.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Over half had been harassed or turned away when attempting to access public services.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Members of the transgender community also encounter high levels of discrimination in health care on an everyday basis.[[83]](#cite_note-83) In Canada, a private members bill protecting the rights of freedom of gender expression and gender identity passed in the House of Commons on February 9, 2011. It amends the Canada Human Rights code to help protect gender-variant people from discrimination by including gender identity and expression in the list of prohibited grounds for discrimination, as well as including gender identity and expression in the description of identifiable group, so that offences deliberately against gender-variant people can be punished to a similar extent as a racial-based crime.[[84]](#cite_note-84) The bill may or may not be passed by the Senate.[[85]](#cite_note-85) In the U.S., a federal bill to protect workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity—called the Employment Non-Discrimination Act—has stalled and failed several times over the past two decades.[[86]](#cite_note-86) Still, individual states and cities have begun passing their own non-discrimination ordinances. In New York, for example, Governor David Paterson passed the first legislation to include transgender protections in September 2010.[[87]](#cite_note-87) Nicole Maines, a trans girl, took a case to Maine's Supreme Court in June, 2013. She argued that being denied access to her high school's women's restroom was a violation of Maine's Human Rights Act; one state judge has disagreed with her,[[88]](#cite_note-88) but Maines won her lawsuit against the Orono school district in January 2014 before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.[[89]](#cite_note-89) On May 14, 2016, the U.S. [Department of Education](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Education) and [Department of Justice](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Justice) issued guidance directing public schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms that match their gender identities.[[90]](#cite_note-90) In April 2014, the [Supreme Court of India](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_India) declared transgender to be a 'third gender' in Indian law.[[91]](#cite_note-91)[[92]](#cite_note-92)[[93]](#cite_note-93) The transgender community in India (made up of [Hijras](/wiki/Hijra_(South_Asia)) and others) has a long history in Indian history and in [Hindu mythology](/wiki/Hindu_mythology).[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95) Justice KS Radhakrishnan noted in his decision that, "Seldom, our society realizes or cares to realize the trauma, agony and pain which the members of Transgender community undergo, nor appreciates the innate feelings of the members of the Transgender community, especially of those whose mind and body disown their biological sex", adding:

[Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

Transgender people are also prohibited from serving in the US military, but United States Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is quoted as stating that the military should "continually" review its prohibition on transgender individuals and stating: "Every qualified American who wants to serve our country should have an opportunity if they fit the qualifications and can do it."[[96]](#cite_note-96)

## Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

James D. Whitehead and Evelyn Eaton Whitehead, educators and authors, discuss[[97]](#cite_note-97) the links between spirituality and sexuality, and the frequent absence of compassion within the church community, in their case, the Catholic Church, in ministering to this community.[[98]](#cite_note-98)

## Feminism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Some feminists and feminist groups are supportive of transgender people. Others are not.

Though [second-wave feminism](/wiki/Second-wave_feminism) argued for the [sex and gender distinction](/wiki/Sex_and_gender_distinction), some feminists believed there was a conflict between transgender identity and the feminist cause; e.g., they believed that male-to-female transition abandoned or devalued female identity, and that transgender people embraced traditional gender roles and stereotypes. Many transgender feminists, however, view themselves as contributing to feminism by questioning and subverting gender norms. [Third wave](/wiki/Third_wave_feminism) and contemporary feminism are generally more supportive of transgender people.[[99]](#cite_note-99)

## Scientific studies of transsexuality[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

A study of Swedes estimated a ratio of 1.4:1 trans women to trans men for those requesting sex reassignment surgery and a ratio of 1:1 for those who proceeded.[[100]](#cite_note-100)[Causes of transsexuality](/wiki/Causes_of_transsexuality)

## Population figures[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

### United States[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

One effort to quantify the population gave a "rough estimate" that 0.3 percent of adults in the [US](/wiki/United_States_of_America) (1-in-300) are transgender, overlapping to an unknown degree with the estimated 3.5 percent of US adults (1-in-30) who identify as [LGB](/wiki/LGBT).[[101]](#cite_note-101)[[102]](#cite_note-102) A more recent study, released in 2016, estimated that the proportion of Americans who are transgender was 0.6%.[[103]](#cite_note-103)

### Latin America[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

In Latin American cultures, the [travestis](/wiki/Travesti) generally undergo hormonal treatment, use female gender expression including new names and pronouns from the masculine ones they were given when assigned a sex, and might use breast implants, but they are not offered or do not desire sex-reassignment surgery, and might be regarded as a gender in itself (a "third gender"), a mix between man and woman ("intergender/androgynes") or the presence of both masculine and feminine identities in a single person ("bigender"). They are framed as something entirely separate from transgender women, who possess the same gender identity of people assigned female at birth.

Other transgender identities are becoming more widely known, as a result of contact with other cultures of the Western world.[[104]](#cite_note-104) These newer identities, sometimes known under the umbrella use of the term "genderqueer",[[104]](#cite_note-104) along with the older *travesti* term, are known as non-binary, and go along with binary transgender identities (those traditionally diagnosed under the now obsolete label of "transsexualism") under the single umbrella of *transgender*, but are distinguished from crossdressers and drag queens and kings, that are held as nonconforming gender expressions rather than transgender gender identities when a distinction is made.

Deviating from the societal standards for sexual behavior, sexual orientation/identity, gender identity and gender expression have a single umbrella term that is known as *sexodiverso* or *sexodiversa* in both Spanish and Portuguese, with its most approximate translation to English being "queer".

### Non-western cultures[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:Nongthoomfairtex.jpg)[Nong Tum](/wiki/Nong_Tum), a [Kathoey](/wiki/Kathoey) internationally recognized for her portrayal in the film [*Beautiful Boxer*](/wiki/Beautiful_Boxer)

#### Asia[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

In [Thailand](/wiki/Thailand) and [Laos](/wiki/Laos),[[105]](#cite_note-105) the term [kathoey](/wiki/Kathoey) is used to refer to male-to-female transgender people[[106]](#cite_note-106) and [effeminate](/wiki/Effeminate) gay men.[[107]](#cite_note-107) The cultures of the [Indian subcontinent](/wiki/Indian_subcontinent) include a [third gender](/wiki/Third_gender), referred to as [hijra](/wiki/Hijra_(South_Asia)) in [Hindi](/wiki/Hindi). Transgender people have also been documented in [Iran](/wiki/Transsexuality_in_Iran),[[108]](#cite_note-108) Japan,[[109]](#cite_note-109) [Nepal](/wiki/Nepal),[[110]](#cite_note-110) [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia),[[111]](#cite_note-111) [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam),[[112]](#cite_note-112) South Korea,[[113]](#cite_note-113) [Singapore](/wiki/Transgender_people_in_Singapore),[[114]](#cite_note-114) and the [greater Chinese region](/wiki/Transgender_in_China), including Hong Kong,[[115]](#cite_note-115)[[116]](#cite_note-116) [Taiwan](/wiki/Taiwan),[[117]](#cite_note-117) and the People's Republic of China.[[118]](#cite_note-118)[[119]](#cite_note-119)[[120]](#cite_note-120) In [India](/wiki/India), the [Supreme Court](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_India) on April 15, 2014, recognized a [third gender](/wiki/Third_gender) that is neither male nor female, stating "Recognition of transgenders as a third gender is not a social or medical issue but a human rights issue."[[121]](#cite_note-121) On January 5, 2015, Reuters stated that the first transgender mayor was elected in central India.[[122]](#cite_note-122)

#### North America[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

In what is now the United States and Canada, many Native American and [First Nations](/wiki/First_Nations_of_Canada) peoples recognised[[123]](#cite_note-123) the existence of more than two genders, such as the [Zuñi](/wiki/Zuni_(tribe)) male-bodied Ła'mana,[[124]](#cite_note-124) the [Lakota](/wiki/Lakota_people) male-bodied [winkte](/wiki/Winkte)[[125]](#cite_note-125) and the [Mohave](/wiki/Mohave_people) male-bodied alyhaa and female-bodied hwamee.[[126]](#cite_note-126) Such people were previously[[127]](#cite_note-127) referred to as *berdache* but are now referred to as [Two-Spirit](/wiki/Two-Spirit),[[128]](#cite_note-128) and their spouses would not necessarily have been regarded as gender-different.[[126]](#cite_note-126) In Mexico, the [Zapotec](/wiki/Zapotec_people) culture includes a [third gender](/wiki/Third_gender) in the form of the [Muxe](/wiki/Muxe).[[129]](#cite_note-129)

#### Other[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

In early [Medina](/wiki/Medina), gender-variant[[130]](#cite_note-130) male-to-female [Islamic](/wiki/Islam) people were acknowledged[[131]](#cite_note-131) in the form of the [Mukhannathun](/wiki/Mukhannathun). In [Ancient Rome](/wiki/Ancient_Rome), the [Gallae](/wiki/Galli) were [castrated](/wiki/Castration)[[132]](#cite_note-132) followers of the [Phrygian](/wiki/Phrygia) goddess [Cybele](/wiki/Cybele) and can be regarded as transgender in today's terms.[[133]](#cite_note-133)[[134]](#cite_note-134) Among the ancient Middle Eastern [Akkadian](/wiki/Akkadian_Empire) people, a *salzikrum* was a person who appeared biologically female but had distinct male traits. *Salzikrum* is a compound word meaning *male daughter.* According to the [Code of Hammurabi](/wiki/Code_of_Hammurabi), *salzikrūm* had inheritance rights like that of priestesses; they inherited from their fathers, unlike regular daughters. A *salzikrum's* father could also stipulate that she inherit a certain amount.[[135]](#cite_note-135) [Mahu](/wiki/Mahu_(person)) is a traditional status in Polynesian cultures. Also, in [Fa'asamoa](/wiki/Fa'asamoa) traditions, the Samoan culture allows a specific role for male to female transgender individuals as [Fa'afafine](/wiki/Fa'afafine).

## Coming out[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Transgender people vary greatly in choosing when, whether, and how to disclose their transgender status to family, close friends, and others. The prevalence of discrimination[[136]](#cite_note-136) and violence[[137]](#cite_note-137) against the transgender community can make coming out a risky decision. Fear of retaliatory behavior, such as being removed from the parental home while underage, is a cause for transgender people to not come out to their families until they have reached adulthood.[[138]](#cite_note-138) Parental confusion and lack of acceptance of a transgender child may be met with an effort to change their children back to "normal" by utilizing mental health services to alter the child's sexual orientation and what is seen as a "phase".[[139]](#cite_note-139)

## Media representation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

As more transgender people are represented and included within the realm of mass culture, the stigma that is associated with being transgender can influence the decisions, ideas, and thoughts based upon it. Media representation, [culture industry](/wiki/Culture_industry), and [social marginalization](/wiki/Social_exclusion) all hint at popular culture standards and the applicability and significance to mass culture as well. These terms play an important role in the formation of notions for those who have little recognition or knowledge of transgender people. Media depictions represent only a minuscule spectrum of the transgender group,[[140]](#cite_note-140) which essentially conveys that those that are shown are the only interpretations and ideas society has of them. [Elliot Fletcher](/wiki/Elliot_Fletcher_(actor)), a transgender teen, has been cast as the first transgender character in [MTV's](/wiki/MTV) television show [*Faking it*](/wiki/Faking_It_(2014_TV_series)).[[141]](#cite_note-141)

## Events[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

### International Transgender Day of Visibility[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) **International Transgender Day of Visibility** is an annual holiday occurring on March 31[[142]](#cite_note-142)[[143]](#cite_note-143) dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide. The holiday was founded by Michigan-based transgender activist[[144]](#cite_note-144) Rachel Crandall in 2009[[145]](#cite_note-145) as a reaction to the lack of [LGBT](/wiki/LGBT) holidays celebrating transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centered holiday was the [Transgender Day of Remembrance](/wiki/Transgender_Day_of_Remembrance) which mourned the loss of transgender people to hate crimes, but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community.

### Transgender Awareness Week[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) **Transgender Awareness Week**, which is typically observed the first two full weeks of November, is a two week long celebration generally leading up to [Transgender Day of Remembrance](/wiki/Transgender_Day_of_Remembrance). The purpose of Transgender Awareness Week is to educate about transgender and gender non-conforming people and the issues associated with their transition or identity.

### Transgender Day of Remembrance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) **Transgender Day of Remembrance** is held every year on November 20 in honor of Rita Hester, who was killed on November 28, 1998, in an anti-transgender hate crime. TDOR serves a number of purposes:

* it memorializes all of those who have been victims of hate crimes and prejudice
* it raises awareness about hate crimes towards the transgender community
* and it honors the dea and their relatives[[146]](#cite_note-146)

### Trans March[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) **Trans March** describes annual marches, protests or gatherings that take place around the world, often taking place during the time of the local pride week. These events are frequently organized by transgender communities to build community, address human rights struggles, and create visibility.

## Pride symbols[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Transgender Pride flag|208x208px](/wiki/File:Transgender_Pride_flag.svg)

A common symbol for the transgender community is the [Transgender Pride flag](/wiki/Transgender_flags#Transgender_Pride_flag), which was designed by Monica Helms, and was first shown at a pride parade in [Phoenix, Arizona](/wiki/Phoenix,_Arizona), United States in 2000.

The flag consists of five horizontal stripes, two light blue, two pink, with a white stripe in the center.

Helms describes the meaning of the flag as follows:

The light blue is the traditional color for baby boys, pink is for girls, and the white in the middle is for "those who are transitioning, those who feel they have a neutral gender or no gender", and those who are [intersex](/wiki/Intersexuality). The pattern is such that "no matter which way you fly it, it will always be correct. This symbolizes us trying to find correctness in our own lives." [[147]](#cite_note-147)

Other transgender symbols include the butterfly (symbolizing transformation or metamorphosis), and a pink/light blue [yin and yang](/wiki/Yin_and_yang) symbol.

Several [gender symbols](/wiki/Gender_symbol) have been used to represent transgender people, including [⚥](/wiki/⚥) and [⚧](/wiki/⚧).

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [History of transgender people in the United States](/wiki/History_of_transgender_people_in_the_United_States)
* [List of transgender people](/wiki/List_of_transgender_people)
* [List of transgender-related topics](/wiki/List_of_transgender-related_topics)
* [List of transgender-rights organizations](/wiki/List_of_transgender-rights_organizations)
* [List of transgender, transsexual and intersex fictional characters](/wiki/List_of_transgender,_transsexual_and_intersex_fictional_characters)
* [List of unlawfully killed transgender people](/wiki/List_of_unlawfully_killed_transgender_people)
* [Transgender publications](/wiki/Transgender_publications)
* [Transsexual pornography](/wiki/Transsexual_pornography)

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)
* [Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

* [Template:Commonscat-inline](/wiki/Template:Commonscat-inline)
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)

[Template:Sexual identities](/wiki/Template:Sexual_identities) [Template:LGBT](/wiki/Template:LGBT)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Transgender](/wiki/Category:Transgender) [Category:Genderqueer](/wiki/Category:Genderqueer) [Category:Gender studies](/wiki/Category:Gender_studies) [4](/wiki/Category:LGBT)