

# The Acronym, Explained

LGBTQ2S+

The acronyms LGBTQ2S+, LGBTQ+, and LGBTQ2 +(and other versions) refer to the **spectrum of sexual and gender identities** that are not cisgender and heterosexual. They include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two spirit, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual. The asterisk (\*) or plus sign (+) shows there are other identities included that aren't in the acronym.

In replace of the acronym, younger generations have adopted the term '**queer**' as it describes both the entire community and it can used as a specific identity. However, in the past the term queer has been used in a derogatory way and can still be painful to hear from some older LGBTQ2S+ adults.

## Lesbian

A woman who is physically and/or romantically attracted to other women.

## Gay

A man who is physically and/or romantically attracted to other men.

## Bisexual

A person who is physically and/or romantically attracted to two or more genders.

## Trans

A person whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their sex-assigned-at-birth.

**Asexual** : a person who has no sexual feelings or who is not sexually attracted to anyone.

**Pansexual** : a person who is physically and/or romantically attracted to all genders.

**Intersex** : a general term used for a variety of situations in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the boxes of "female" or "male"

## Queer

Any orientation or identity that's not straight and cisgender.

'Q' sometimes stands for questioning

## Two Spirit

Two-Spirit is a term used within some **Indigenous** communities, encompassing cultural, spiritual, sexual and gender identity.

## + Plus

The "+" is used to show there are more gender and sexual identities beyond that version of the acronym. Other identities that you may see in the acronym include: